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AND FIRST SET OF TEAM-TABS

SHOOT!

15p

26th AUGUST, 1978

**KICK OFF THE
NEW SEASON WITH
BRITAIN'S BRIGHTEST
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Champions versus F.A. Cup winners!
Nottingham Forest's Martin O'Neill
(red strip) and Clive Woods of Ipswich
Town in action.

THE ONLY CERTAIN THING IN AN EVER-CHANGING GAME...

A NEW season brings new hope — especially for those fans whose teams just missed being one of last season's successes or struggled merely to hold their own, or worst of all slipped down from one Division to another.

In theory, all teams start equal with an even chance of getting among the trophies and making this *their* season.

Only one thing is certain in football: that nothing is certain!

Who could have imagined that last season's Championship would go to a club that only just secured the third promotion slot in 1976/77?

But that was the storybook finish for Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest.

Or is it just a beginning for them

— the opening chapter in a success story spanning a string of seasons, with honour after honour arriving at the City Ground?

That is just one of the fascinating topics of conversation that arises whenever fans congregate.

Another concern promoted Spurs' recruitment of the two stars from the World Champions' squad — Ardiles and Villa. How will they adjust to the more demanding rigours of an English season, with its "physical football" played in widely-varying weather conditions?

Can Liverpool join that elite band of Continental clubs — Real Madrid, Ajax and Bayern Munich — and win the European Cup for the third time in a row?

Will Elton John's Watford again win promotion and edge nearer a spot in football's top of the pops?

And in Scotland, can Rangers, now managed by former captain

John Greig, sustain their run of domestic success? Last season they won all three of their country's major honours.

Or will Celtic reassert themselves under their new boss Billy McNeill, also a former player, and put the Old Firm back in business?

Or is this the season a former "also ran", such as Aberdeen, who ran Rangers so close in League and Cup last season, step up to dominate?

And will Scotland put up a better show in the European competitions?

In Wales, can former Liverpool idol John Toshack continue the good work as player-manager at Swansea and spark a revival in a part of the world where football has so long been in the doldrums? And what about Wrexham, who under Arfon Griffiths spiked many big guns last term?

The questions come tumbling to mind, too many to pose here. Only as the season unfolds will answers emerge with any certainty. In fact, the likelihood is many of the major ones will only be resolved around

the very end of the campaign.

What you can be certain of is we on SHOOT will be doing our utmost all through to keep you in touch with what's happening in a world which is never exactly the same when the sun sets as when it rose in the morning.

Apart from our coverage, we are pleased to present our latest League Ladder, on which you can record, week-by-week, the changing fortunes of all clubs in all Divisions of the Football League and Scottish League.

We hope you'll enjoy the programme we've prepared for this, our start-of-the-season issue. You'll notice we've signed a new columnist, Manchester United's Gordon McQueen, who will be alternating fortnightly with Gordon Hill. Also, we've brought back the popular "You are the Ref" feature, this time compiled by World Cup referee Clive Thomas.

If you have any comments about the magazine, or the game, then let's be hearing from you!

And don't forget, the game needs your active support, too. There's no substitute for going along to your local League club and giving them a cheer.

David Gregory

EDITOR

IT'S strange how the Football League always manages to conjure up a meaningful fixture list with which to kick-off a new season.

Repeats of memorable matches, reunions of players in different colours, clashes of clubs who were poles apart twelve months previously.

So it is once again with some intriguing matches to whet the appetite on August 19th.

What, for example, could be better than Champions Nottingham Forest beginning the defence of their title against newly-promoted Tottenham Hotspur, Ardiles, Villa and all?

That surely has to be a full house. Brian Clough's runaway Reds entertaining the side that is going to perhaps attract more attention than anyone in the early weeks.

The match may give an indication as to whether or not Forest can be so

AT THE BIG KICK-OFF:

'REPEATS' OF MEMORABLE MATCHES



Manchester United (Steve Coppell on the ball) met Birmingham at St. Andrews on the opening day of last term. They clash again on August 19th.

successful again, and whether Spurs will be able to cope with First Division life after a year down below.

Not many miles away 40,000-plus will flock to one of the Midlands occasions of the season — Aston Villa against Wolves.

Traditionally this is one of the most important meetings of the year, irrespective of League status.

In fact the Midlands has come out of the first day extraordinarily well.

Across at The Hawthorns they'll be treated to a repeat of last term's F.A. Cup Semi-Final, that blood and thunder affair between West Brom and Ipswich.

The Throstles will be keen to take revenge for that Highbury defeat at the hands of the eventual Cup winners.

Talking of revenge, Birmingham fans will still remember the first day of the 1977-78 season when Blues came a cropper at the hands of Manchester United.

That fateful day Lou Macari swung his way into a new campaign with a

hat-trick. Well, fate has decreed the teams meet again at the start of yet another season — though this time in Manchester.

Little Lou will no doubt settle for the same, but Birmingham's comparatively new manager Jim Smith will be hoping to reverse the tide. This time last year, by the way, he was planning for Blackburn Rovers' first match — at Notts County. A lot can happen in 12 months.

There'll be a few handshakes all round at Norwich where those great buddies, as well as rivals, John Bond and Lawrie McMenemy come face to face on Southampton's return to First Division football.

A red letter day this, too, for former 'Spurs and England striker Martin Chivers. After his years with Servette in Switzerland he couldn't have asked for a more poignant comeback than against the club that introduced him to League football. He reveals his feelings about it on page 46.





All eyes will be focused on Spurs at Nottingham Forest to see how their Argentinians Ardiles (right) and Villa cope with League football.

Arsenal, back in Europe, and everyone's fancy to win a major honour of some sort, take on Leeds United having fought off the Yorkshire club's reputed attempt to recapture their top coach, and Terry Neill's right-hand man Don Howe.

In the Second Division it's a sobering thought to anyone that Cambridge United make history by playing Stoke City.

Two years ago Stoke were in the First Division, Cambridge in the Fourth — but history matters not, and they start level on August 19th.

Wrexham, who begin their Second Division life at home to Brighton, will no doubt reflect with considerable

optimism that at this time last year Brighton themselves were new boys, yet came within a hairsbreadth of bringing First Division football to the Goldstone Ground.

Newcastle lost their First Division status after playing London clubs Arsenal and Queens Park Rangers in the closing week of last season. Now they start their bid for a return against yet another London side — Millwall.

In Division Three Blackpool entertain Oxford United — and last time they met three players were sent off — all from Oxford.

After a rather unhappy year at Queens Park Rangers, midfielder Brian Williams has linked up with Swindon Town, and as luck would have it they play Bury — the team little Brian enjoyed such success with before his move South. Brian talks about his prospects at Swindon on page 17.

Confrontation

After their irresistible run to promotion, Watford go to Walsall. What a confrontation that should be.

In the Fourth Division those great names of the Leeds United past Allan Clarke and Paul Reaney will be found in unfamiliar surroundings.

Clarke begins his player-manager career with Barnsley at home to Halifax Town, and Reaney travels with Bradford City to Portsmouth.

But perhaps most eyes will be on Hereford where one of the League's newest clubs take on the brightest new-boys of all — Wigan Athletic.

It's a fascinating programme, and one which should get 1978-79 off to a great start.

Milestones to look out for in 1978-79



Malcolm Macdonald (number 9) turns away after scoring for Arsenal. Another 17 like that and The Gunners will reach 5,000 League goals.

● Arsenal require 17 goals for their 5,000th in League football.

● Birmingham City's 28th League game will be their 3,000th... and they need 11 more points to reach 3,000.

● Bury's 22nd League match will be their 3,000th in the Football League.

● Bradford City's first win will bring their total of League wins to 1,000.

● Should Bristol City lose 11 League matches, they will have reached 1,000 League defeats.

● Chelsea need 36 points to reach 2,000 in League football.

● Charlton's 34th League match will be their 1,000th in Division Two.

● The sixth goal against Carlisle will be the 3,000th they have conceded in League matches.

● Crewe's fifth defeat will be their 1,000th in the League.

● Derby County's 36th League game will be their 2,000th in the First Division.

● Fulham's fourth League match will bring their total of League

● Hull City need 57 goals to notch their 4,000th in League football.

● Hereford have averaged exactly one point per game since being elected into the Fourth Division.

● Hartlepool's sixth defeat will be their 1,000th in the League.

● Leicester City require 32 more goals for their 2,500th in Division Two.

● Luton Town's 20th League game will be their 1,000th in the Second Division and they need 34 more points to bring their total to 1,000 in Division Two.

● Manchester City's 28th League



Fulham (light shirt) meet West Ham in their fourth League game this term... their 2,500th.

Manchester City (Mike Channon on the ball) will play their 3,000th Football League game in their 28th League match.

match will bring their total played to 3,000, whilst Manchester United will achieve the same milestone in their 18th League match.

● Middlesbrough's 28th League goal will bring their total to 4,500.

● Newport County need 28 more points for their 2,000th point and 17 goals for 1,000 goals in the Fourth Division.

● Nottingham Forest's 14th League game will be their 3,000th, and their 26th goal will be their 2,000th in the First Division.

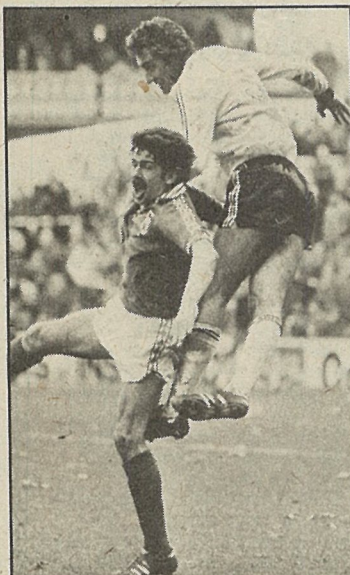
● Should Oldham lose 14 League matches, it will bring their total of defeats to 1,000.

● Sheffield United's 26th game will be their 3,000th League match and they need 35 points for 1,000 in the Second Division, whilst Sheffield Wednesday will reach 3,000 League matches in their sixth game.

● Tottenham need 40 goals to reach 3,000 in the First Division.

● Tranmere Rovers have now drawn exactly 500 of their League matches.

● Torquay play their 2,000th League game in their 40th match.



matches to 2,500 and their 25th point will be their 2,500th.

● Grimsby's 27th point will be their 3,000th in the League.



Above... West Brom (stripes) will be out for revenge after Ipswich knocked them out of last season's F.A. Cup Semi-Finals.



League Champions Forest (light shorts) started with a 3-1 win at Everton on the first day of the 1977-78 campaign.

LAST season was tough — but this season will be even more demanding for the Football League clubs whose campaigns have ended in a fountain of champagne.

They are the clubs who ended at the 'right' ends of the League tables, the teams who signed out at the end of the season with an eight letter word — PROMOTED.

But the managers responsible for steering their clubs to titles in Divisions Two, Three and Four are adamant in believing their problems have perhaps only just started.

For Champions are expected to remain Champions. Once fans have tasted a heady draught of success they are reluctant to accept second best should the club fail this season.

Park side had beaten Blackburn 1-0 on April 26 to gain promotion to Division One for the first time in 14 years.

"I am sure five or six players would have wanted to move on and I would have looked at myself very carefully if we had failed again," admitted Greaves.

"I doubt whether I could have climbed yet another mountain. The tension in the last few weeks had been horrific, impossible to explain to anyone."

Arfon Griffiths, manager of Wrexham, is another wary of the task ahead after his Welsh side gained promotion to Division Two at the end of the season.

"It's going to be difficult but I think we can succeed because we have the right approach."

Promotion can spell T.R.O.U.B.L.E.

Carlisle have never been forgiven for gaining promotion to Division One at the end of the 1973-74 season and finishing-up in Division Three at the end of the 1976-77 season.

Graham Taylor (right), manager of all-conquering Watford, runaway Champions of Division Four, is one under no illusions about the task ahead.

"Last term was the hardest of my career," says Watford's 33-year-old boss. "But if this has been difficult, wait until this season really gets under way."

"Our fans not only expect us to gain promotion again — they will demand it. Watford have received a lot of publicity and are one of the teams everyone wants to beat," he admitted.

"Our promotion will not ease the pressure, it will increase it."

Taylor has set himself a five-year target in which to lift the Hertfordshire club into Division Two.

"The players have done marvellously so far because they didn't think they had it in them to get promotion so quickly. Now the real work starts."

Bill Dodgin, whose Brentford side became the sixth team he has managed or coached to promotion in 11 years, is another looking anxiously at the new campaign.

He knows the Football League's Division Three is one of the hardest from which to escape and has been scouring the country to strengthen his squad for a serious assault on the title.

"I know the players I need, now it's a question of getting them," says Dodgin, who has quietly masterminded a small revolution this season at the London end of the M4.

Ian Greaves described the tensions of climatic finales to the last three seasons at Bolton as 'horrific'.

The Bolton manager celebrated with champagne after his Burnden



Griffiths predicts Wrexham, who take delight in upstaging Cardiff as the premier Welsh side, can do for North Wales what Ipswich have done for East Anglia under the direction of Bobby Robson.

"There are many similarities between the two clubs, both situated in provincial towns with good catchment areas."

"We had regular 20,000 crowds in 1977-78 and have even persuaded those who previously travelled to Manchester United and Liverpool to stay and watch us."

"We have shown we can live with First Division teams in Cup-ties but there is a vast difference between producing a good performance in a sudden-death game and securing wins week after week on a League basis against top opposition."

None of the promoted sides will strut arrogantly into higher Divisions this season, for they know the real hard work is only just starting...

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Chelsea/Leeds

I've just got an old Chelsea programme for a League Cup Third Round replay against Leeds in October, 1969. Can you tell me the result and any scorers?

THOMAS McCULLOCH,
GLASGOW

● Chelsea won that one 2-0. Thomas, with second-half goals from Charlie Cooke and Alan Birchenall.

But they got no further in the competition — going out by 1-0 at Carlisle in the next round.

Before Dean

I know "Dixie" Dean holds the record of scoring 60 League goals in a season, but who held it before him?

JOHN SIMPSON,
CHEADLE HULME

● George Camsell was the man, John — with 59 of the 122 goals which helped Middlesbrough win the Second Division Championship in 1926-27.

He scored his 59 goals in 37 matches, including a record nine hat-tricks, in what was only his first full season with a League club.

That might well have stood as an all-time record — it's still easily the best for the Second Division — but only lasted just one year before Dean scored his 60 goals in 39 First Division games for Everton in 1927-28.

Camsell spent his entire first-class career with Middlesbrough — and, when War broke out in 1939, had a total of 326 goals in 419 League games for the club. He also scored 18 goals in his nine full internationals for England.

Cup-winners

I know Barnsley are a Fourth Division club now, but have they ever won any honour in the past?

FINBAR O'SHEA,
EIRE

● They certainly have, Finbar — no less than the F.A. Cup in 1912, when they beat West Bromwich 1-0 in the Final.

Two years earlier, too, Barnsley were also in the Final — though that time they went down 2-0 to Newcastle.

Another claim to fame is Danny Blanchflower — later to be the famous skipper of Spurs and Northern Ireland; and now that country's manager — gained the first four of his 56 international caps while with Barnsley.

Phil Neal

Can you tell me anything about the early career of my favourite English footballer Phil Neal before he joined Liverpool?

CONSTANTINE ZACHARIAS,
GREECE

● In October, 1974, Constantine, Phil Neal became manager Bob Paisley's first transfer deal after he took over from the legendary Bill Shankly.

He cost only what turned out to be a bargain £60,000 from Northampton Town — and, of course, is now a regular in the full England squad.

'Pool at Wembley

Please settle an argument — how many times have Liverpool played in a Cup Final at Wembley?

S. C. JONES,
NUNEATON

● Since Wembley opened in 1923, Liverpool have played in seven important Cup Finals there.

In the F.A. Cup, they lost 0-2 to Arsenal in 1950; beat Leeds 2-1 in 1965; lost 1-2 to Arsenal in 1971; beat Newcastle 3-0 in 1974; and lost 1-2 to Manchester United in 1977.

Then last season Liverpool played two Finals at Wembley — first drawing 0-0 with Forest in the League Cup (before going down 0-1 in the Old Trafford replay); and then beating Bruges 1-0 in the European Cup.

In addition to those seven Finals, Liverpool have recently played at Wembley in the 1974, 1976, and 1977 F.A. Charity Shield games.

Boro

I'm a very keen Middlesbrough supporter, and would like to know how long the club has been in existence?

MICHAEL MOORE,
CHORLEY

● Boro were formed in 1876, Michael — after the idea of starting a club was brought up at a tripe-supper at the local Corporation Hotel!

They turned professional in 1889, reverted back to amateur status in 1892, and then became a pro. side again in 1899, when they were elected to the Second Division of the League.

Middlesbrough are the only present Football League side to have won the old F.A. Amateur Cup — which they did in 1895 and 1898.

SHORT PASSES

● Present Palace manager Terry Venables played 203 League games for Chelsea; 115 for Spurs; 177 for Q.P.R.; and 14 for Palace.

(GUY WALKER, Essex)

● Burnley were one of the original 12 members of the Football League in 1888; they have never played below the Second Division.

(MELVYN TOMKINS, Blackburn)

● Liverpool manager Bob Paisley won an Amateur Cup-winners' medal with Bishop Auckland in 1939, and a League Championship medal with Liverpool in 1947.

(JAMES COPE, Worcester)

Our Expert would like to point out that although all letters are read, he can only reply to published questions because of shortage of time.

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WE look into the SHOOT crystal ball and come up with our predictions for season 1978/79 in England. No one will be more surprised than us if many of them come true. After all, we tipped Nottingham Forest to struggle last season, and they streaked to the Championship...

OUR TITLE

LIVERPOOL, MAN. CITY,

ARSENAL

THEIR form in the second-half of last season had us believing they would be a good title bet this time round. But... their very disappointing F.A. Cup Final performance raised a few doubts about The Gunners. So far, Terry Neill hasn't been able to add to his squad — which will be stretched if they have two or three injuries. With a commanding midfielder, whose drive can complement the skills of Brady and Rix, The Gunners could land a trophy.

ASTON VILLA

IF key players can avoid injury, Villa could be amongst the pacesetters. They have plenty of firepower, skill in midfield and are fairly solid at the back. They've promised to be a top side for a few seasons and if they're going to realise this potential, then now is the time.

BIRMINGHAM CITY

WE like the way manager Jim Smith has gone about his job at Birmingham. He's silenced the anti-Blues brigade and could be the man to lead the club to the success their fans have been waiting for. It's hard to see Blues actually winning something, although they shouldn't be constantly struggling against relegation as they have in recent years. They'll miss Trevor Francis in the opening games... but will his edge have been blunted after a working holiday in Detroit?

BOLTON WANDERERS

THEY'VE made it to Division One at last — but manager Ian Greaves has not strengthened his squad yet. History proves this is vital, even though Wanderers have some experienced players. Hard to predict how Paul Jones, Sam Allardyce, Peter Reid and the other youngsters will fare in the top flight. But, as most promoted teams find, it'll be a hard slog to establish themselves.

BRISTOL CITY

ALAN Dicks has done well to keep City in the top flight. As usual, a lot of people will tip City to go down. While we can't see them in the top half of the table, City won't be pushovers. Dicks is anxious to strengthen his squad, as his enquiry for Gerry Francis proved. City have one or two useful youngsters coming through, and the likes of Norman Hunter still have a lot to offer.

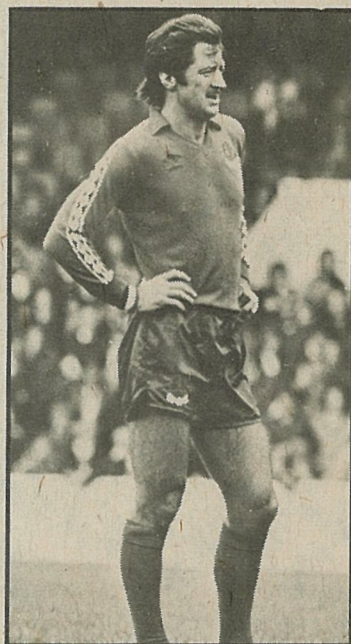


COVENTRY CITY

THEY'VE done well with limited resources, but as The Sky Blues can't compete with the "giants" in the transfer market, they probably won't worry the recognised leaders too much. A good side to watch, with plenty of attacking power... but not the steel necessary to win the Championship.

DERBY COUNTY

THEIR first team pool looks very thin — and there isn't much money available for new faces unless Tommy Docherty sells. The Doc has usually been able to do well during his early days with a club, although we can't see The Rams as title challengers.



CHELSEA

ABLE to buy players for the first time in four years, Chelsea manager Ken Shellito says he's looking for a top eight position. That may be a little ambitious, because key players such as Peter Bonetti and Ron Harris will need replacing. The youngsters have done well so far — can they keep it up? With Ray Wilkins there to guide them (bad news for his number one fan Terry Neill!) Chelsea could surprise in one of the Cups.

ABOVE... Forest and Arsenal should be title contenders again.

LEFT... Bolton will need Frank Worthington's experience.

RIGHT... Everton and Leeds — different fortunes ahead?

FAR RIGHT... Kenny Dalglish of Liverpool.



FAVOURITES:

NOTTM.FOREST, EVERTON

EVERTON

WITH Mickey Walsh there to partner 30-goal Bob Latchford, Everton's fire-power is probably the fiercest in the League, with the accurate Dave Thomas supplier of crosses on the wing. They did well last season, but "blew up". Still a question mark over their defence, the base from which every Championship side is built. Everton look like being a side worth watching this season.

IPSWICH TOWN

SUPERB in the Cup last season, so disappointing in the League. They had bad luck with injuries, so they weren't totally to blame for their indifferent form. Although Town should have a happier season in 1978/79, they don't appear to be Championship material. Top eight — with style.

LEEDS UNITED

THEIR managerial problems can't have helped preparations for the new season. Leeds are still rebuilding and can't be rated as Championship contenders, although later in the season, when the new manager has made his presence felt, United could be a fair F.A. Cup bet. Slowly, but

surely, all links with the Leeds under Revie are being severed... but it's too early for the "new" side to get back to the top.

LIVERPOOL

BOB Paisley looks about to strengthen his side as we go to press. It's impossible to do anything except tip the European Champions for more honours. They've proved over the years they are the yardstick for other sides — their consistency is remarkable considering the number of competitions they're always involved in. The Reds have managed

to replace key players with no loss of momentum. That's why, once again, they'll be the team to beat this season.

MANCHESTER CITY

THEY'VE promised so much in the past two or three seasons, yet for one reason or another have failed to land the title. Tony Book has been spending even more money this summer and City do, indeed, have a powerful-looking squad, strong in all three departments. They have youth, experience, depth and skill. We tipped City last year... and a lot of people will make City their choice this season.

MANCHESTER UNITED

A CRUCIAL season for The Reds. The new faces start their first full season and the Old Trafford fans will be expecting more than last term. Despite £500,000 Gordon McQueen, the defence still seems suspect, while up-front it is unclear who Dave Sexton will play with Joe Jordan. United's huge support will carry them through hoping, possibly, for the emergence of the type of home-produced youngster the club specialised in during the Sixties.

MIDDLESBROUGH

A SIDE never amongst the honours, yet one of the most difficult to beat. More adventurous than formerly, Boro still lack what it takes to win a major competition. Still, as the North-East's First Division's sole representatives they may pull off a surprise... but we doubt it.

Continued overleaf



NORWICH CITY

JOHNSON has the knack of getting the maximum from his players, and while Norwich may lack the star names of the top clubs, they're well-coached, fit and on their day a match for anyone. However, it's a fact of soccer life (a sad one, perhaps) that you must be able to compete in the transfer market to hit the top-spot... and this is why The Canaries will not seriously worry the leaders.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

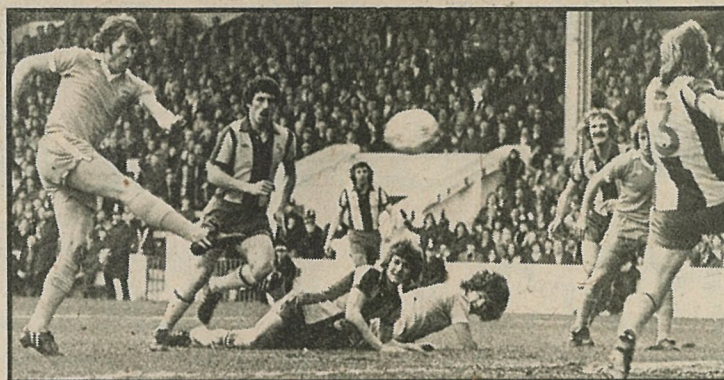
THEY made just about everyone eat their words last season... yet despite winning the title and League Cup, it is difficult to predict how they'll do second time round. Obviously Forest will be there or thereabouts, playing their own brand of attractive football. Their achievements of last season count for nothing now. As everyone knows — it's harder to stay at the top than get there.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS

THEY'VE slipped alarmingly over the past two years and all the signs are they'll slip even more. Manager Frank Sibley has gone — so have some of their top players. Rangers don't have the backing of a big crowd to lift them and it could be a long, hard winter for the West Londoners.

SOUTHAMPTON

SAINTS have some very promising youngsters and led by the evergreen Alan Ball should survive



to build for the future. They have one of the most sought-after managers in the League in Lawrie McMenemy and if Southampton sign another goalscorer they could be a side to be reckoned with.

SPURS

WITH Nottingham Forest in mind, it will be interesting to see how the Londoners do in their first season back in Division One. Keith Burkinshaw has wisely strengthened his pool — and how! All the interest will centre around Ardiles and Villa — initially, anyway — but Spurs should have a fairly good season. We're looking forward to seeing Glenn Hoddle, one of the best young players to emerge for ages, in the First Division again.

WEST BROM

THEY'LL be hard to beat, especially at home, but at the same

Mike Channon's power could help land Manchester City the Championship.

time West Brom aren't ready yet for a serious title challenge. They have some exciting players — John Trewick could establish himself this season as a forward to watch out for — but again their chances of honours lie in the Cups rather than the League.

WOLVES

STAYED up by the skin of their teeth last season... and the Molineux men may be in for another tough winter. They don't seem to have enough really outstanding players to make much of an impact, although black stopper Bob Hazell could become a big star. They've relied too much on John Richards and he'll need the support of Billy Rafferty up-front.

SHOOT'S VERDICT

A YEAR ago we listed Nottingham Forest in our "no hopers" section and it is small consolation that not even the most ardent Forest fan expected his team to be Champions! It proves, however, that despite a monopoly of the title by the "big" clubs, someone like Forest can still come along and cause a sensation. Having said that, we can't see anyone "doing a Forest" this season. Without taking anything from the players, Forest's success was, to a large extent, due to the unique partnership of Brian Clough and Peter Taylor; without them at the helm, Forest, surely, wouldn't have taken the title? This season's Championship seems to be between (alphabetically) Everton, Liverpool, Manchester City and Nottingham Forest and possibly Arsenal. Our five selections all have strong claims... and a question mark over them. Arsenal still lack that certain something, that magical quality Champions have. Everton's defence could let them down. Liverpool are... well, Liverpool... but will the likes of Emlyn Hughes be able to slog through another 60 games? Manchester City have spent heavily — but they've done that in the past and haven't been Champions. Forest? History says it's very difficult to be Champions twice in succession. There are "sub top" sides who could come good. However, after taking everything into consideration, we're going for Liverpool. Not a brave choice, perhaps... but, we feel, a wise one.

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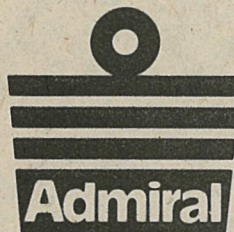
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England Goalies kit
Man. Utd. 'home'*
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How they finished in 1977-78

UPS-AND-DOWNS

First Division Champions:
Nottingham Forest. Runners-up: Liverpool. Relegated: West Ham, Newcastle, Leicester.

Second Division Champions:
Bolton. Also promoted: Southampton. Spurs. Relegated: Blackpool, Mansfield, Hull.

Third Division Champions:
Wrexham. Also promoted: Cambridge, Preston. Relegated: Port Vale, Bradford City, Hereford, Portsmouth.

Fourth Division Champions:
Watford. Also promoted: Southend, Swansea, Brentford. Seeking re-election: Hartlepool, York. Southport (voted out of the League, Wigan replaced them), Rochdale.

Scottish Premier Division Champions: *Rangers. Runners-up: Aberdeen. Relegated: Ayr United, Clydebank.*

Scottish First Division Champions:
Morton. Runners-up: Hearts. Relegated: Alloa, East Fife.

Scottish Second Division Champions: *Clyde. Runners-up: Raith.*

A happy Elton John celebrates Watford's Fourth Division Championship victory last season.

EUROPEAN HONOURS

European Cup
Winners: Liverpool. Losing Finalists: FC Bruges.

Cup-Winners' Cup
Winners: Anderlecht. Losing Finalists: Austria Vienna.

U.E.F.A. Cup
Winners: PSV Eindhoven. Losing Finalists: Bastia.

NON-LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Rothmans Isthmian League
Enfield.

Rothmans Western League
Falmouth Town

Rothmans Northern League
Spennymoor United

Southern League
Bath City

Northern Premier League
Boston United

Highland League
Inverness Caledonian

Spartan League
Cray Wanderers

Athenian League
Billerica Town

HONOURS:

F.A. Cup
Winners: Ipswich Town. Losing Finalists: Arsenal.

Scottish Cup
Winners: Rangers. Losing Finalists: Aberdeen.

Football League Cup
Winners: Nottingham Forest. Losing Finalists: Liverpool.

Scottish League Cup
Winners: Rangers. Losing Finalists: Celtic.

Welsh Cup
Winners: Wrexham. Losing Finalists: Bangor.

Anglo/Scottish Cup
Winners: Bristol City. Losing Finalists: St. Mirren.

F.A. Vase
Winners: Blue Star. Losing Finalists: Barton Rovers.

F.A. Trophy
Winners: Altrincham. Losing Finalists: Leatherhead.



First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 Nottm Forest	42	25	14	3	69	24	64
2 Liverpool	42	24	9	9	65	34	57
3 Everton	42	22	11	9	76	45	55
4 Man City	42	20	12	10	74	51	52
5 Arsenal	42	21	10	11	60	37	52
6 WBA	42	18	14	10	62	53	50
7 Coventry	42	18	12	12	75	62	48
8 Aston Villa	42	18	10	14	57	42	46
9 Leeds	42	18	10	14	63	53	46
10 Man United	42	16	10	16	67	63	42
11 Birmingham	42	16	9	17	55	60	41
12 Derby	42	14	13	15	54	59	41
13 Norwich	42	11	18	13	52	66	40
14 Middlesbro	42	12	15	15	42	54	39
15 Wolves	42	12	12	18	51	64	36
16 Chelsea	42	11	14	17	46	69	36
17 Bristol City	42	11	13	18	49	53	35
18 Ipswich	42	11	13	18	47	61	35
19 QPR	42	9	15	18	47	64	33
20 West Ham	42	12	8	22	52	69	32
21 Newcastle	42	6	10	26	42	78	22
22 Leicester	42	5	12	25	26	70	22

Second Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 Bolton	42	24	10	8	63	33	58
2 Southampton	42	22	13	7	70	39	57
3 Tottenham	42	20	16	6	83	49	56
4 Brighton	42	22	12	8	63	38	56
5 Blackburn	42	16	13	13	56	60	45
6 Sunderland	42	14	16	12	67	59	44
7 Stoke	42	16	10	16	53	49	42
8 Oldham	42	13	16	13	54	58	42
9 Crystal Palace	42	13	15	14	50	47	41
10 Fulham	42	14	13	15	49	49	41
11 Burnley	42	15	10	17	56	64	40
12 Sheff United	42	16	8	18	62	73	40
13 Luton	42	14	10	18	54	52	38
14 Orient	42	10	18	14	43	49	38
15 Notts County	42	11	16	15	54	62	38
16 Millwall	42	12	14	16	49	57	38
17 Charlton	42	13	12	17	55	68	38
18 Bristol Rovers	42	13	12	17	61	77	38
19 Cardiff	42	13	12	17	51	71	38
20 Blackpool	42	12	13	17	59	60	37
21 Mansfield	42	10	11	21	49	69	31
22 Hull	42	8	12	22	34	52	28

Third Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 Wrexham	46	23	15	8	78	45	61
2 Cambridge	46	23	12	11	72	51	58
3 Preston	46	20	16	10	63	38	56
4 Peterborough	46	20	16	10	47	33	56
5 Chester	46	16	22	8	59	56	54
6 Walsall	46	18	17	11	61	50	53
7 Gillingham	46	15	20	11	67	60	50
8 Colchester	46	15	18	13	55	44	48
9 Chesterfield	46	17	14	15	58	49	48
10 Swindon	46	16	16	14	67	60	48
11 Shrewsbury	46	16	15	15	63	57	47
12 Tranmere	46	16	15	15	57	52	47
13 Carlisle	46	14	19	13	59	59	47
14 Sheff Wed	46	15	16	15	50	52	46
15 Bury	46	13	19	14	62	56	45
16 Lincoln	46	15	15	16	53	61	45
17 Exeter	46	15	14	17	49	59	44
18 Oxford	46	13	14	19	64	67	40
19 Plymouth	46	11	17	18	61	68	39
20 Rotherham	46	13	13	20	51	68	39
21 Port Vale	46	8	20	18	46	67	36
22 Bradford	46	12	10	24	56	86	34
23 Hereford	46	9	14	23	34	60	32
24 Portsmouth	46	7	17	22	31	75	31

Fourth Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 Watford	46	30	11	5	85	38	71
2 Southend	46	25	10	11	66	39	60
3 Swansea	46	23	10	13	87	47	56
4 Brentford	46	21	14	11	86	54	56
5 Aldershot	46	19	16	11	67	47	54
6 Grimsby	46	21	11	14	57	51	53
7 Barnsley	46	18	14	14	61	49	50
8 Reading	46	18	14	14	55	52	50
9 Torquay	46	16	15	15	57	56	47
10 Northampton	46	17	13	16	63	68	47
11 Huddersfield	46	15	15	16	63	55	45
12 Doncaster	46	14	17	15	52	65	45
13 Wimbledon	46	14	16	16	66	67	44
14 Scunthorpe	46	14	16	16	50	55	44
15 Crewe	46	15	14	17	50	69	44
16 Newport	46	16	11	19	65	73	43
17 Bournemouth	46	14	15	17	41	51	43
18 Stockport	46	16	10	20	56	56	42
19 Darlington	46	14	13	19	52	59	41
20 Halifax	46	10	21	15	52	62	41
21 Hartlepool	46	15	7	24	51	84	37
22 York	46	12	12	22	50	69	36
23 Southport	46	6	19	21	52	76	31
24 Rochdale	46	8	8	30	43	85	24

Scottish First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 Morton	39	25	8	6	85	42	58
2 Hearts	39	24	10	5	77	42	58
3 Dundee	39	25	7	7	91	44	57
4 Dumbarton	39	16	17	6	65	48	49
5 Stirling	39	15	12	12	60	52	42
6 Kilmarnock	39	14	12	13	52	46	40
7 Hamilton	39	12	12	15	54	56	36
8 St Johnstone	39	15	6	18	52	64	36
9 Arbroath	39	11	13	15	42	55	35
10 Airdrieonians	39	12	10	17	50	64	34
11 Montrose	39	10	9	20	55	71	29
12 Queen of the S.	39	8	13	18	44	68	29
13 Alloa	39	8	8	23	44	84	24
14 East Fife	39	4	11	24	39	74	19

Scottish Second Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 Clyde	39	21	11	7	71	32	53
2 Raith	39	19	15	5	63	38	53
3 Dunfermline	39	18	12	9	64	41	48
4 Berwick	39	16	16	7	68	51	48
5 Falkirk	39	15	14	10	51	46	44
6 Forfar	39	17	8	14	61	55	42
7 Queen's Park	39	13	15	11	52	51	41
8 Albion	39	16	8	15	68	68	40
9 East Stirling	39	15	8	16	55	65	38
10 Cowdenbeath	39	13	8	18	75	78	34
11 Stranraer	39	13	7	19	54	59	33
12 Stenhousemuir	39	10	10	19	43	67	30
13 Meadowbank	39	6	10	23	43	89	22
14 Brechin	39	7	6	26	45	73	20

Scottish Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 Rangers	36	24	7	5	76	39	55
2 Aberdeen	36	22	9	5	68	29	53
3 Dundee United	36	16	8	12	42	32	40
4 Hibernian	36	15	7	14	51	43	37
5 Celtic	36	15	6	15	63	54	36
6 Motherwell	36	13	7	16	45	52	33
7 Partick	36	14	5	17	52	64	33
8 St Mirren	36	11	8	17	52	63	30
9 Ayr	36	9	6	21	36	68	24
10 Clydebank	36	6	7	23	23	64	19

GOAL~LINES

Send your letters to STEVE CARTER, GOAL-LINES, SHOOT!, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford St., London SE1 9LS. £3 for the Star letter — £1.50 for every other letter published. When writing to us please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from Brian McGovern of Dublin, who wins our Special Prize of £3. He writes:

WHY THE FUSS?

WHAT'S all the fuss about players from Argentina in the English League? For many years English clubs have signed countless players from Scotland, Wales and Ireland with no limit on the number.

There hasn't been a murmur from the English authorities. When Arsenal played last season, there were seven non-English players in the team at times!

So when a limit of two is put on Continental players, and considering the best English players make the grade whatever... I find the protests quite amazing.

● The Professional Footballers' Association wants to protect the interests of its members and they include all British and Irish players, not just English stars. The "English" angle doesn't come into it. I welcome new faces, although we mustn't let them take over as they have in cricket... or in soccer like in Spain and Belgium.

Grand Slam

I WISH everyone, including SHOOT, would stop saying Rangers did the Grand Slam last season. Only one side managed this and it was the Welsh Rugby Union side. They won the Grand Slam by beating England, Ireland, Scotland and France.

No disrespect to Rangers, but let's keep the Grand Slam where it belongs... in the valleys.

ANNELISE JESPERSEN,
OULTON BROAD.

● Point taken, Rangers did the Treble — by slamming everyone in sight!

Apologies to the other Steve Carter

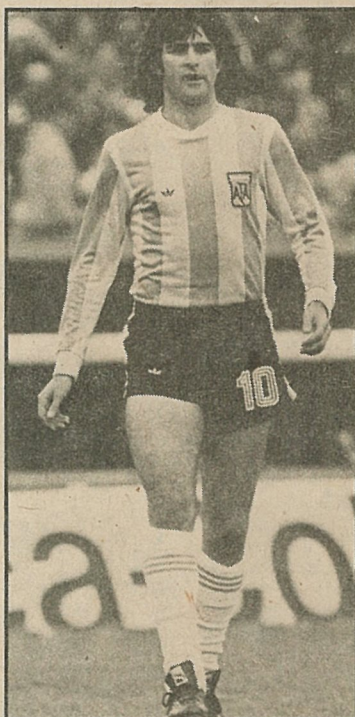
LAST week, in our Notts County team-group, it was stated that Steve Carter — no relation, incidentally — had signed for Walsall. This was widely reported in the Press and even on radio. However, we learnt that the deal fell through after the colour pages had been printed. I'd like to apologise to my namesake for any embarrassment. If he sends me a letter, I promise I'll publish it!

World Class

IN your Shoot On Sight article, you mentioned that Argentina weren't a great side, having just one truly world class player — Mario Kempes (below).

In my view, Fillol, Passarella, Ardiles, Bertoni and Luque also come under the world class ranking. Passarella could become one of the best players of our time.

PATRICK DOLAN,
CHELMSFORD.



● The meaning of world class has a different definition to different people. To me, it applies to players such as Bobby Moore, Bobby Charlton, Franz Beckenbauer, Pelé, Johan Cruyff, Gerd Müller, Rivelino... players who have proved themselves far superior to their rivals. Kempes is a superstar, but the other players you mentioned are not exceptional, just very good.

Working Holiday

I WOULD like to take this opportunity to thank Ray Clemence for all the warmth and kindness he showed on his recent holiday in Southern Ireland.

He signed literally hundreds of autographs and even took time off to visit the local football team.

Considering he was on holiday, I feel he was remarkably kind to "work" so hard.

CHRISTOPHER McEVOY,
GOREY.

● Our columnist enjoys meeting fans — even on holiday.

RAY CLEMENCE talking soccer

LIVERPOOL are poised on the starting-line, fighting fit and raring to go for every trophy we're in contention for. But don't mistake this for the greed of avaricious pot-hunters.

We know from experience our attitude gets results. It has brought a stream of honours, as though on a conveyor belt, to Anfield.

So far we've never yet realised the "impossible" dream of capturing three trophies — although we came near to it in 1977 when we did the double of League Championship and European Cup, but lost in the F.A. Cup Final to Manchester United.

At Liverpool we classify a season as a failure if we finish trophyless, even though we might be runners-up in the League or losing Finalists in a Cup.

Our number one priority is to win the European Cup for the third time in a row, which will place us on that rarified plateau occupied only by the three European clubs who have achieved that remarkable feat: Real Madrid of Spain; Ajax of Holland and Bayern Munich of West Germany.

It's something that can happen only once in a lifetime. I doubt if many of the players with those three clubs were actually present in all three wins, but there's the chance a high proportion of the Liverpool lads will possess three medals if we should pull off the "triple".

It's a shame we are drawn to meet Nottingham Forest in the First Round — the odds against England's two representatives coming out of the hat together must have been about 4,000 to one. Even though their manager, Brian Clough, said he doesn't mind, I'm sure he was really disappointed.

Coming early on in the season means neither team will be in peak form, so it's unlikely to be the classic confrontation it appears on paper.



However, both ties will be attended by full houses, and one at least must be shown on TV.

I'll be talking more fully about them when the time comes.

On the domestic front, the League Championship, the winning of which stamps your team as the best in the land, is first on our list. I want to add to the three Championship medals already among my collection.

Losing out to Forest last season, which robbed us of a third consecutive win, to equal Arsenal and Huddersfield, especially hurt our pride as it was the first season back in the

'Two European Cup wins — a British record'

MAIN PICTURE . . . Kenny Dalglish (far left) scores Liverpool's only and winning goal against FC Bruges.

RIGHT . . . Ipswich's Roger Osborne (arms raised) is hugged by John Wark after hitting the winner v. Arsenal in last term's F.A. Cup Final.



top flight for the promoted men from the City Ground.

I suppose, though, we should take consolation from the fact Forest improved their side with four vital signings: Peter Shilton from Stoke, Kenny Burns from Birmingham, Dave Needham from Q.P.R. and Archie Gemmill from Derby.

Both Peter, a great friend of mine through our England connection, and Kenny, had coveted titles bestowed on them. Peter became "Players' Player of the Year" and Kenny the Football Writers' "Player of the Year".

Despite being among our main rivals this term, I can't see Forest beating us to the Championship again. Last season they had the advantage of surprise. This time, as Champions, they will face the pressure we at Liverpool have become accustomed to, and which they will find difficult to overcome. As every team will be keyed-up to beat them — even the struggling sides will raise their game — every one of the 42 matches will be like

Continental side and will be staying on.

Things should look up for Mike Channon, a great lad who always gives 100 per cent, yet failed to hit his best form and took a lot of "stick" from the home fans.

Among the London clubs, I pick Arsenal as the one that will be battling it out at the table-top. The majority of The Gunners are young and lack only experience. Talent they already possess in large measure.

Their disappointing display in the last F.A. Cup Final — when Ipswich humiliated them — was partly due to many of the Arsenal players carrying injuries. Liam Brady — the finest left-sided midfield prospect in Britain — for instance, had obviously not recovered from a severe ankle knock sustained shortly beforehand in a League match against Liverpool at Anfield.

Malcolm Macdonald's failure to shine in his third Final at Wembley could, perhaps be attributed to a troublesome cartilage which he had

goes where even the angels fear to tread: amongst the flying fists and boots in front of goal.

And what of the chances of Everton, our rivals from that other Merseyside club, based at Goodison Park?

For several weeks last season we had to endure the sight of Everton leading the Championship race. To many of the fans up here, the only thing that matters is their club — Red or Blue — is above the other in the League table.

Everton's main asset has been their good organisation, which makes them very difficult to beat. Now they have added more punch up-front by buying Mickey Walsh from Blackpool to work alongside Bob Latchford, who did so well to finish top scorer in the First Division with a prize-winning 30 League goals. They also bought midfielder Geoff Nulty from Newcastle.

So Everton must be included amongst the challengers.

I nominate Ipswich as my dark horses in The Championship Stakes.

Much depends on whether they can cure the bad habit of conceding too many goals away from home.

Beset by injury problems, they nevertheless overcame them in the

F.A. Cup Final to reveal their true nature. I don't think I've ever before seen such an exciting 90-minute exhibition of attacking football in a Final before. Even the most worthy winners previously had taken time to shake off those notorious Wembley nerves.

As for Manchester United, because they will still be striving to adjust to a new system of play under manager Dave Sexton, I regard them as being a better bet for a good Cup run.

Promoted Spurs, with their two new signings from Argentina, Osvaldo Ardiles and Ricardo Villa,

'My dark horses in the Championship race — Ipswich'

are difficult to assess. Their other signing, John Lacy from Fulham, should strengthen a defence prone to give away too many goals.

As Chelsea found last year, it's very difficult to peg them back in the First Division.

Bolton, who at last won promotion after being acknowledged by many as the best footballing side in the Second Division for several years, should do well enough to consolidate their position in the First.

So should Southampton — especially if that little red-haired bundle of inspiration, Alan Ball, returns to lead them from his "other" club in the United States.

But back to my personal aims. Despite never having won a League Cup winner's medal, being pipped in Liverpool's first-ever Final by Forest in March, I still have a preference for reaching the F.A. Cup Final.

Most top League sides don't take the League Cup competition seriously until they find themselves in the Quarter-Finals. That explains why there are so many "shock results" early on.

The F.A. Cup is still the show-piece occasion, the climax to the season viewed "live" by a TV audience of millions.

Right now I'm looking forward to another great day — when we play Q.P.R. in our opening League game on the green, billiards table-like pitch at Anfield, with the European Cup on display and the Kopites singing our praises.

Ray Clemence

'OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY'

playing in a high-tension Cup Final.

Forest's best chance of hanging on to that League trophy is to go out of the European Cup!

I rate Manchester City's challenge more highly. The Maine Road side had a disappointing season last time out, only finishing fourth, but they have so much talent. And with the signing of Paul Futcher from Luton, City must be in with a fine chance.

Apart from their "new boy", City can take heart from the fact Dave Watson — who plays in front of me for England — has forgotten his notions of departing to play for a

operated on soon afterwards.

Malcolm, like all strikers, will be hoping for a good start by quickly getting amongst the goals. Otherwise, we may see him leaving Highbury for pastures new.

Once again, I'm going for Aston Villa to spearhead the threat from the Midlands. Last season, they began badly but finished strongly and only just missed qualifying for Europe. Probably their key figure is Andy Gray, who unfortunately suffered last term from severe knee ligaments trouble. Fully-fit, I regard him as the best-equipped, most courageous striker in Britain. He

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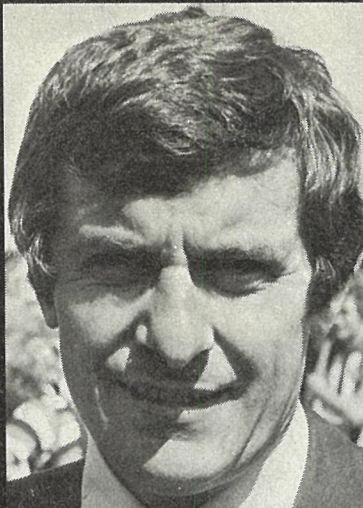
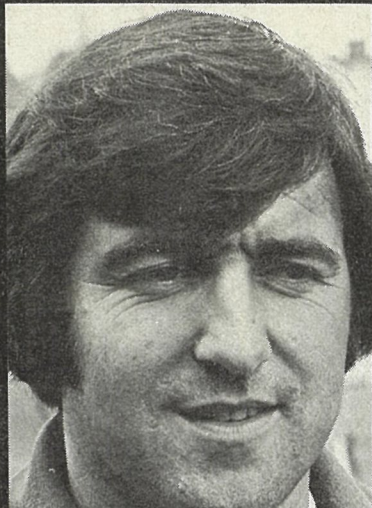
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'Our games with Brighton are always attacking affairs'

TERRY VENABLES,
CRYSTAL PALACE



'My main problem — getting players to improve their form'

ALAN MULLERY,
BRIGHTON

PROMOTION-SEEKING MANAGERS

Mullery: Last season was a great disappointment for us all here at Brighton. Missing out on promotion came as a real blow because we had convinced ourselves right from the start we were going up.

Venables: Well, although Brighton finished above us, I was very pleased with our form. Halfway through the season we lost the services of captain Ian Evans and we were forced to look to players like young Billy Gilbert to stand in for him. The fact we introduced so many youth team players into the Second Division, and they more than held their own, makes me very confident for the future.

Mullery: My main problem is to get my players to improve on their form of last season. They played so well it will be asking a lot of them, but it is something I must ask if we are to go up. I am sure we and a number of other Second Division teams are better than many First Division clubs.

Venables: I cannot entirely agree there, Alan. Although there are a number of excellent teams in our Division, I would normally back the First Division.

Mullery: Certainly, Division One must be the hardest to win because the overall standard is generally higher than that to be found in Division Two, but no Division is easy to win because there are always at least 21 other teams trying to stop you.

Venables: One thing which has disappointed me in the close season is the way in which everybody has gone overboard about the World Cup. Some of the teams there showed they were better than England in some aspects of the game but, then again, I think

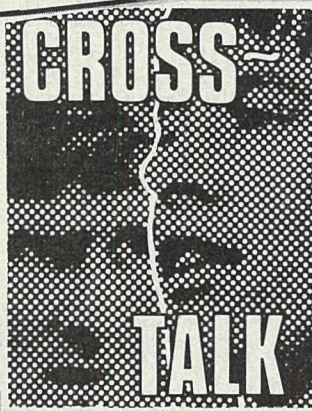
ALAN Mullery and Terry Venables are two of football's liveliest and progressive-minded managers. They are also firm friends whose careers have followed similar lines. They both played for Tottenham and England and as managers have taken their respective clubs, Brighton and Crystal Palace, into the Second Division. We invited them to discuss their hopes for the season, a term which could bring them another joint success — promotion to the First Division.

we lead the rest of the world in other departments.

Mullery: I was very impressed with the passing of these countries, especially the successful teams such as Argentina, Holland and Italy, and also the overall standard of fitness. But nobody can seriously expect English teams suddenly to follow the precedent

set in the Argentine and abandon defence to go for all-out attack, although it would make for very exciting viewing.

Venables: If a team's great strength lies in its defence, then they are going to stay back and rely on the quick break to get the goals. Players can have all the ability in the world but where we lead



the rest is in application and without that all the skill in the world is useless.

Mullery: I am sure we shall see an improved Brighton side. The present team shows nine changes from the one which won promotion from Division Three and last season they did remarkably well considering they were playing together for the first time. They will have had more chance to get to know each other and to adapt to each other's style of play.

Venables: Here, at Palace, we are all looking forward to our games with Brighton because they are always such attacking affairs. And I am sure you need no reminding that you have not beaten us in seven games!

Mullery: Well, this season, you had better look out because, as I say, we really mean to win promotion and we cannot afford to drop points to anyone. Now that John Lacy has decided to join Spurs, we are no longer in the market for new players and I am more than happy with the pool currently at the Goldstone Ground.

Venables: It is the same here at Palace. The only changes we have made are to sell Rachid Harkouk to Q.P.R. and buy Mike Elwiss from Preston.

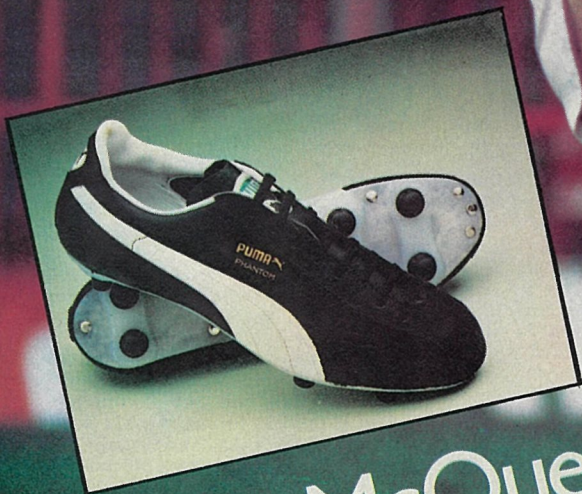
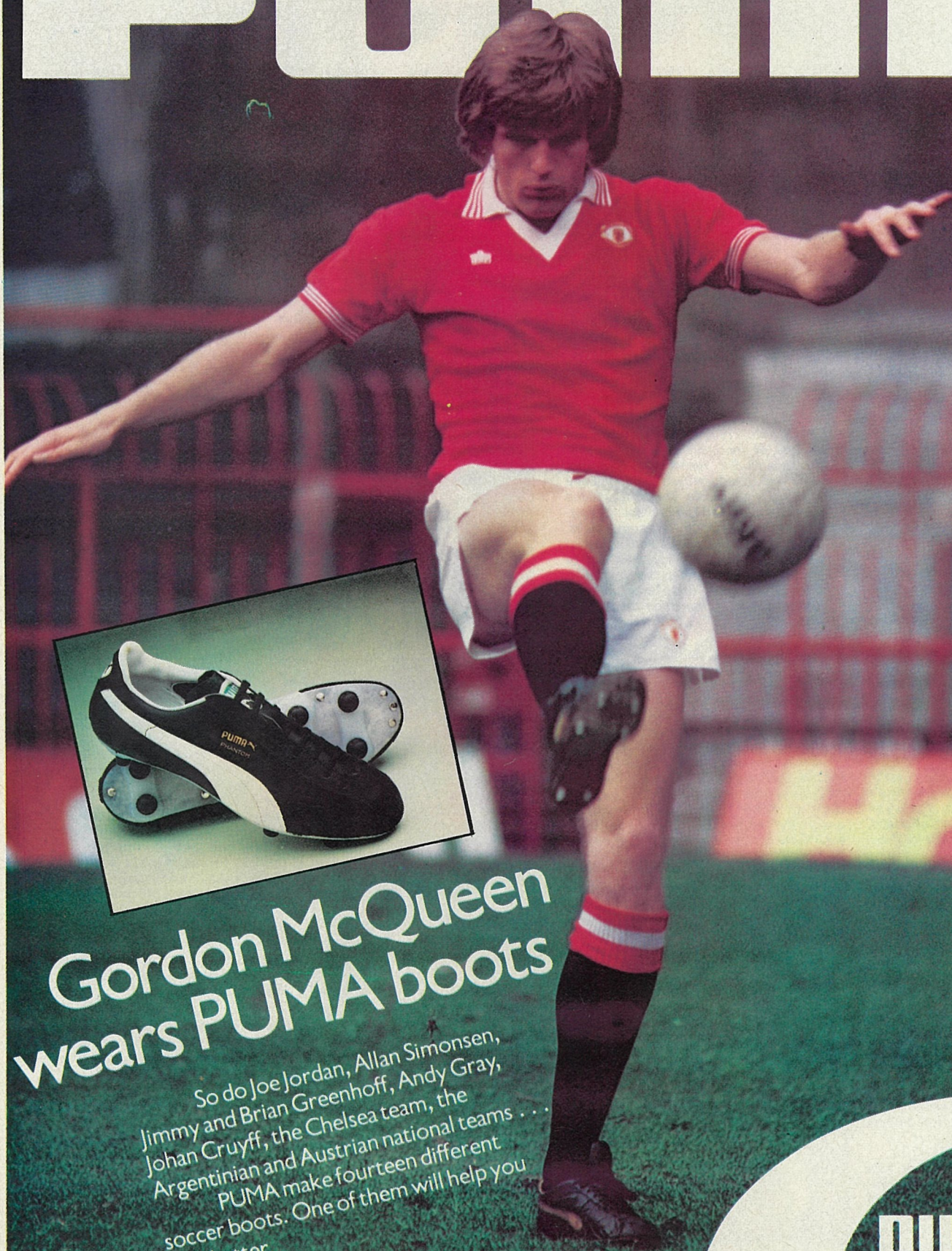
Mullery: Next season will see the renewal of the old rivalry, especially between our two sets of supporters.

Venables: Sure, with the fortunes of our two teams being so similar, and with both clubs coming up at the same time, it is only natural fans will look upon each other as old rivals. This all contributes towards making the games more exciting. As long as they behave themselves then I hope they continue to create an atmosphere that inspires teams to play at the top of their form.

Palace's George Graham goes close v. Brighton at Selhurst Park in March.



PUMA



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So do Joe Jordan, Allan Simonsen, Jimmy and Brian Greenhoff, Andy Gray, Johan Cruyff, the Chelsea team, the Argentinian and Austrian national teams . . . PUMA make fourteen different soccer boots. One of them will help you play better.



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YOUR MOST EXCITING PLAYERS

IN ENGLAND
KENNY
DALGLISH
Liverpool

RARELY has a Scottish player made such a big impact during his first season "down South". The £440,000 Liverpool paid Celtic looks a bargain and Kenny thoroughly deserved to become the first player to win a SHOOT trophy twice; he was Scotland's winner in 1974. The 27-year-old Dalglish is his country's most-capped player and has a string of domestic honours to go with his collection of caps.



The men SHOOT readers voted the tops receive their trophies~
down Argentina way



IN SCOTLAND
DEREK
JOHNSTONE
Rangers

TOP scorer in Britain last season, 24-year-old Derek Johnstone polled around 90 per cent of the votes in Scotland, the biggest landslide since the awards began. The new Rangers captain may not have played in the World Cup, but few would doubt this season Derek will establish himself in the national side. He has just signed a new contract with Rangers, the club he helped to the Treble during 1977/78.

WHY FANS HAVE TO PAY

SENIOR Citizens and "Junior Citizens" apart... it's going to cost you a minimum of a pound a time — that's a 20p rise — to watch League football in England this new season.

Can you AFFORD to watch it? More important, will it be WORTH the money if you can?

These are the questions thousands of fans will be asking as the financial "sock" from soccer bites deeper into their loose-change.

Perhaps it's inevitable — with only a handful of the League's 92 clubs out of "the red".

And League secretary Alan Hardaker has a point when he claims "First-class football is still the cheapest form of live entertainment in this country."

O.K., well compare it with an ordinary cinema seat — and that's not even "live" — let alone a West End theatre or a star-name pop concert.

And our football always has been — and still is — cheaper to watch than in most other countries of Europe and beyond.

So do the fans really merit the grouse to which they feel they're entitled?

When the maximum-wage regulations were, quite rightly, abolished in 1961... 99 per cent of fans, equally rightly, said "About time, too."

What they all too conveniently forgot, though, was the players' wages had to be found somewhere — and, in soccer, that virtually means a narrow choice of one of two options.

The short-sighted (if, sadly, sometimes inevitable) way of getting rid of your best players to cheque-happy rivals — and no supporter stomachs that easily — or else putting up admission-charges.

Or even, if you're really down to the shoe-string level, have notices

HOW THE GATE-MONEY HAS GONE UP

1919: Minimum admission charge raised from 6d. (2½p) to 1s. (5p).

1942: Up to 1s. 3d. (6p).

1951: Up to 1s. 6d. (7½p).

1955: Up to 2s. (10p).

1960: Up to 2s. 6d. (12½p).

1965: Up to 4s. (20p).

1968: Up to 5s. (25p).

1970: Up to 6s. (30p).

1972: Up to 40p.

1975: Up to 65p.

1977: Up to 80p.

1978: Up to £1.



. AND WHERE THE GATE-MONEY GOES

The precise percentages obviously vary from club to club — but this is a fairly typical breakdown of how your admission is used:

70%... Players' wages and requisites.

10%... Travel, hotel, and match expenses.

5%... Ground expenses, police, referee and linesmen, and medical expenses.

4%... Rates and rents, lighting, heating, water, and cleaning.

4%... Administration, postage, printing, telephone, staff wages, and billposting.

4%... Interest charges and depreciation.

3%... Repairs, renewals, and sundry items.

all round the dressing-rooms and offices pleading "Please switch off ALL lights".

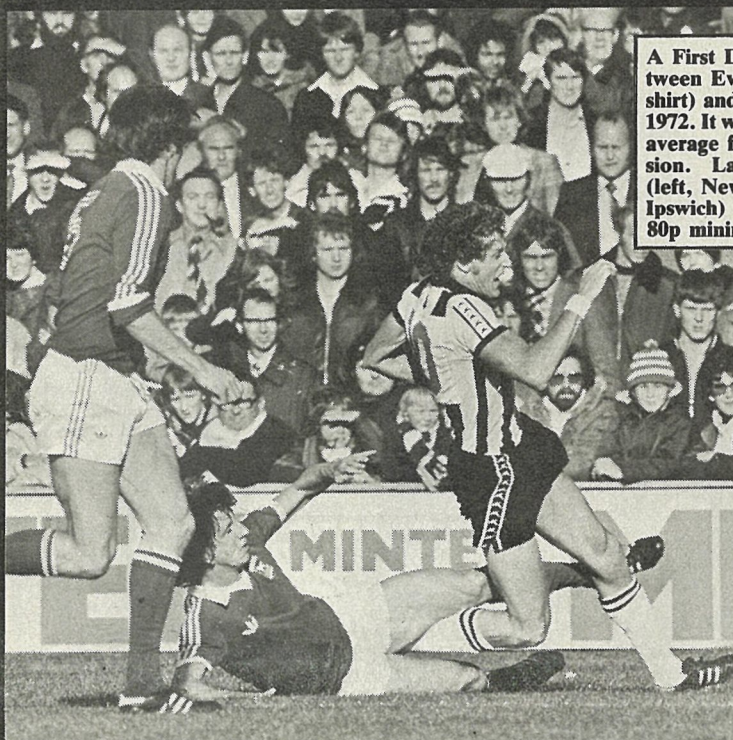
That's what happened to poor Workington in the days just before they were ousted from the League last year.

Though, unfortunately, no one seems to have taken much notice since... Sir Harold Wilson once very wisely remarked: "One man's wage-rise is another man's price-rise!" — and that applies just as much to soccer as anything else.

Of course, there have been many other factors as well — increased bills for rates, administration, ground maintenance, equipment, travel and hotel requirements, etc. — but it must still be acknowledged that players' personal (and, sometimes, excessive) demands have been more than a bit responsible for the increase since of a minimum admission charge of 12½p (or half a crown, as we called it then!) to a solid quid now.

Good luck to the players. Theirs is a short career — and one which, with just one unlucky turn on a greasy pitch, could be ended at any moment of any match — and they're entitled to look to their interests.

But, like it or not, someone has to PAY.

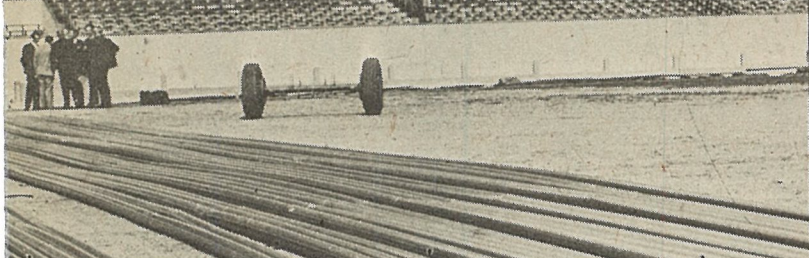


A First Division match between Everton (right, dark shirt) and Crystal Palace in 1972. It would have cost the average fan 40p for admission. Last term's prices (left, Newcastle, stripes, v. Ipswich) had doubled to 80p minimum.



MORE TO WATCH SOCCER

Five per cent of a club's expenses is spent on ground improvements (left) and medical staff.



Nagging thought is... if the admission has gone up eight times in this period, has the standard of entertainment to match it?

There were one or two lively lads like Matthews and Finney around in those "bad old days" — and the mind boggles at what they would be worth in earnings today!

Finney, as shrewd in the head as in those twinkling feet, simultaneously built up a flourishing plumbing business — but, from football alone, he could never get more than a basic £20 a week.

And, in a League game, it never need cost more than 10p to see him.

It's not quite the comforting thought it might seem that only one post-War club — Accrington Stanley in 1962 — has actually gone bust while Football League members... for a hatful of others

are nowadays, at least potentially, facing a similar fate. At best, almost living from one kick to the next.

The Government, and some local Councils, have latterly chipped-in with grants as generous as can be managed at the moment to help tide over the worst crises — but, however welcome in the short-term, they cannot be much more than stop-gap measures.

In the long run, the basic income has to come in through the gate — regularly. And that means YOU!

You may not like the prices charged. You may be tempted to stay away on Saturday-afternoon — and watch the groan-and-grunt boys on telly instead.

But if you do — for too long — remember your club may not be around at all in a few years' time.



'NO REGRETS AT LEAVING FIRST DIVISION Q.P.R.'

says BRIAN WILLIAMS, Third Division Swindon's new signing.

WHEN Brian Williams, the 22-year-old left-sided midfielder, joined Swindon from Q.P.R. for £50,000 at the end of June he did so with no regrets whatsoever at leaving the Shepherds Bush club.

"I wasn't happy and I couldn't settle in London," said the Salford born footballer. "Added to which, I didn't seem to figure in Q.P.R.'s future plans."

"I knew that Millwall had put in a bid for me and that a couple of other clubs were interested, but I chose progressive Swindon."

"I only spent one season at Q.P.R., having joined them from Bury for £70,000 in July, 1977."

"In fact I was Frank Sibley's first signing when he took over at Loftus Road 12 months ago. I was a little surprised he resigned recently, but I didn't know all that went on behind the scenes."

Stockily built Brian started his career at Bury and went to the Gigg Lane club straight from school.

"I made my debut as a 15-year-old against Stockport County and we won 4-0," he says. "Tom McAnearney was the manager at

the time and he was the one who gave me my big chance."

"I played on the wing and set two goals up for former England winger John Connolly. It was one of the highlights of my career. I don't think you can beat winning in front of your home crowd and playing really well on your first outing."

"I played up-front alongside Derek Spence when The Shakers won promotion from the Fourth Division in season 1973-74. Then I reverted to midfield. It's only on the odd occasion I play in a forward role now."

"At Swindon I'll be linking up with Chris Kamara and Ray Guthrie in the middle of the park."

What are the strengths and weaknesses of Brian's play?

"Marking off the ball," he told us. "I tend to keep my eye on the ball too much and my right foot's a little weaker than my left. I'm only short so I don't count heading as a weakness. I'm good when I can get up, but if I'm challenging a big bloke, then he'll win the ball every time."

"At Loftus Road I didn't score

any goals in my 16 first team outings, but I notched around 15 when I was at Bury. I usually set them up and make space for the front men."

"The biggest strength lies in my shooting power and a love of going forward. I think that's why Bobby Smith bought me."

"The boss keeps players alert all the time and if you're not doing a certain thing, then he'll talk to you and try to tell you where you're going wrong."

"He wants to do well all the

time. When he was in charge at Port Vale the club went down, so he'll be wanting to show more than ever just what he can do."

"My ambition is to play in the First Division again, because there's nothing quite like it. I was a bit unsettled at Q.P.R., but when I did play I found it unbelievable. It's really exciting and a different game altogether."

"But my immediate aim is to help get Swindon into the Second Division. My forecast is promotion this season."



BACK in 1973, there was a Leeds banquet attended by many top dignitaries, including Sir Harold Wilson.

Brian Clough — the following year to have a stormy 44-day reign as manager there — had to sit through many long (and often pompous) speeches praising United's achievements before he was called upon to respond to a toast.

Up got a bored-looking Cloughie, and starchy announced: "I've been sitting here two-and-a-half hours — and, before I respond to anyone, I'm going to the toilet!"

Following which there was an embarrassing few minutes before he returned to do his other duty.

As he explained to reporters afterwards: "If in future anyone wants a puppet to get up and say just the right things to please everybody, in the room . . . I suggest they invite Basil Brush instead!"

Loud-mouth. Big-head. Right Charlie. **GENIUS. MAGICIAN.** These are just a few of the wildly-assorted descriptions Clough has picked up along the way.

And which is the true one? Probably, at different stages of his variegated career, all of them — in a bewildering maze of inconsistencies.

As someone once remarked: "Trying to find out what makes that guy tick is about as easy as trying to cut a hedge with nail-scissors."

Other than on professional "talker duties", like his recent World Cup panellist's stint for ITV, Clough has been markedly quieter in latter times.

Probably wiser, too — and certainly more successful. He cracks: "I've grown up, maybe. I like to let deeds speak for me these days" — and they certainly do. Loud and clear.

Like as not, he'll never be allowed to forget his greatest gaffe — publicly describing Jan Tomaszewski as "a clown" . . . just before the acrobatic,

CLOUGH — as a manager

Manager of Hartlepool, Derby County, Brighton & Hove Albion, Leeds United, Nottingham Forest. Joint-manager of England Youth team.

if unconventional, Polish goalkeeper put England out of the 1974 World Cup single-handed.

But the day of the "instant clanger", Clough-style, is well gone. A shame, maybe, for reporters seeking an outrageous "quote" — but a plus for the maturing Clough character.

Not that he could ever be anything other than outspoken, blunt, even rude — but, *always*, totally honest. He doesn't suffer fools gladly — and it shows.

That's something he could never change — or want to.

And that goes for his acts of kindness, too — most of which, because that's the way he wants it, don't reach public notice.

Like visits to local children's hospitals at Christmas and other times — on the strict understanding there's no publicity.

Sportswriters, some of whom have "had a go" at Clough on occasions, have been delighted to get a surprise visit when it's come to his ears they've fallen ill.

Hard-luck stories — but they have to be *genuine*, for Clough is nobody's mug — have been discreetly followed-up by a bundle of banknotes "mysteriously" being discovered in an overcoat pocket.



Clough (stripes) scored the quickest 250 League goals.

CLOUGH — as a player

HONOURS: Two full England caps and three Under-23 appearances

CLUB	SEASON	LEAGUE GAMES	LEAGUE GOALS
Middlesbrough	1955-56	9	3
	1956-57	41	38
	1957-58	40	40
	1958-59	42	43
	1959-60	41	39
	1960-61	40	34
Sunderland	1961-62	34	29
	1962-63	24	24
	1963-64	(Did not play due to injury)	
	1964-65	3	1
TOTAL		274	251

CONTROVERSIAL CLOUGH

The amazing career of one of soccer's most unorthodox managers.

Then there was the case of one of his former players who ran into domestic and business troubles a couple of years or so back, and had to put up some of his household items for sale to pay off the most pressing bills.

An anonymous buyer bid generously for some of the furniture — and then, next day, it was delivered straight back to his home from the auction-rooms.

No one ever "owned-up" — but

bravely rejected many months earlier.

He recalls sadly: "It was the sickest, sourest moment of my life."

Given a job on the Sunderland coaching staff, he soon decided his future lay in management. He got his chance of a start right at the very bottom when Hartlepool — who'd then had to apply for re-election five times in six years — offered him the job on 27th October, 1965.

But, unglamorous as it may have seemed, typically Clough put his all into it. So much so that, for some weeks, he even worked "for free" to tide the hard-up club over a particularly difficult financial patch.

Hot-seat

After some hard — but, in the long-term, by no means unrewarding — slog . . . Clough was offered the manager's hot-seat at Derby in June, 1967. (Incidentally, the team Clough had built up out of nothing had just finished a then best-ever eighth, and went on to gain promotion twelve months later).

He accepted the challenge with both hands — with one vital proviso. If Derby took Clough from Hartlepool, then they had to take his number two, Peter Taylor, as well.

And from being team-mates at Middlesbrough — "The way Brian could snap-up a half-chance," says ex-keeper Taylor, "I was darned glad he was on *our* side!" — that's the way it's been all along the line . . . right up to their present highly successful partnership at Forest.

And *partnership*, Clough insists, is just what it is — no less. He flatly refuses other than to share any glory

going with Taylor.

Derby finished a humble 18th in the Second Division in their first season under Clough. But the following summer he played his first real winning ace by signing veteran Dave Mackay

HONOURS

(with Derby)

1968-69 — Division Two Champions.

1971-72 — Football League Champions.

(with Forest)

1976-77 — Promotion to Division One.

1977-78 — Football League Champions; Football League Cup-winners; "Manager of the Year".

Jan Tomaszewski — the man Clough called "a clown".



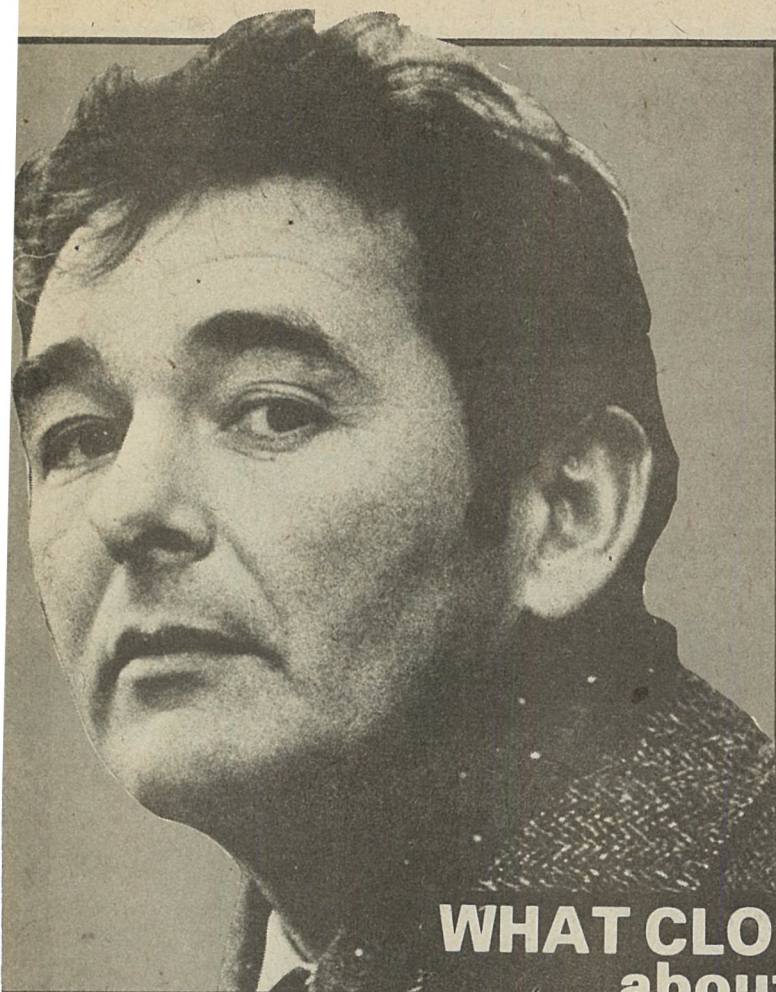
WHAT THEY'VE SAID ABOUT CLOUGH

"Brian is the greatest motivator of players anywhere in the game."

— ROY MCFARLAND

"Brian Clough has got a lot of very good qualities as a manager, and at least one great one — guts. He makes a tough decision — over discipline, for instance — and he sticks to it. Too many managers compromise, and so lose authority."

— JIMMY HILL



A straight-faced Brian Clough with Kenny Burns after last term's League Cup triumph.

despite being linked with Coventry and other clubs, Clough signed a new five-year contract — but sensation-ally, in October, 1973, walked out following a club bid to gag his public comments.

The Derby players threatened a revolt if the Clough-Taylor partnership weren't enticed back — but, by then, it was too late.

The following month, to everyone's surprise, they took over at Third Division Brighton. But a 2-8 home League defeat by Bristol Rovers, and a 0-4 home Cup drubbing by non-League Walton and Hersham, are hardly the happiest of starts!

After eight months on the South Coast, though, it's on the move again — this time, for once, without Taylor, who remained behind at Brighton.

With Sir Alf Ramsey deposed, Don Revie landed the England job — and Leeds gave Clough a healthy five-year contract to succeed him at Elland Road.

Leeds chairman Manny Cussins proudly announced to the world: "Brian Clough is the ideal manager for this club," — and then, just 44 days after the "ideal manager's" arrival, promptly fired him!

Up spoke a, by now, presumably rather confused Mr Cussins again to proclaim: "What has been done is for the good of the club."

Clough's pride was hurt, but there was some ointment to rub on the

magic began to become apparent again when Taylor quit Brighton to become his partner once more.

Derby stepped into the picture — a shade late — to try and entice the pair back, but they preferred to stay put and concentrate on hoisting Forest back up into the First Division. And, almost inevitably, they did.

Clough, many people now already think, walks on water — but, for Sheik Don Revie, his footsteps were directed towards the sand of the desert.

Sensation-ally, he ditched the England job — and, immediately, there was massive public clamour for Clough to take over his job for a



The Forest boss with his right-hand man Peter Taylor.

WHAT CLOUGH'S SAID ... about CLOUGH

"I haven't yet found 100 per cent compensation for scoring goals. They were ecstasy for me; it was like a drug. But scoring the quickest 250 goals in history wasn't enough. I never got to Wembley; I never won a League Championship medal. I would love to have been one of the Derby or Forest lads who did it. Playing is the big pleasure — there's no substitute."

"People who get into a situation where they handle large sums of money often collect things — Georgian silver, or rare stamps or paintings. But the more money I have will buy me the time to collect nice people around me."

"When I began to realise fully that my playing-days were over... I nearly went berserk. I began to drink heavily, and I was hell to live with. I'm ashamed

now. I wasn't very manly. I lost heart, which was something I'd never done as a player. In fact, I nearly went clean off the rails."

"But nobody else could know, could even begin to appreciate, how hard it hit me. I had hardly ever missed a game before through illness or injury. That's why I advise young players never to forsake even one 90 minutes — because, when it's too late, they'll regret it bitterly."

"Now the National Front are trying to bring their filth on to the terraces to pollute the game I love. They are scum — the scum of the earth. If you step on something slimy, you don't just say 'How nasty!' You wipe away every trace of that slime — that's the only way."

"One should always aim for the top. I always have. That's what Life is all about."

ever to achieve the feat.

Cloughie had "arrived", and there was a congratulatory telegram from Sir Harold Wilson — not to mention a prize spot now in Mike Yarwood's repertoire — to prove it.

Derby reached the European Cup Semi-Finals the following year and,

wound in the shape of a £93,000 "golden handshake".

A three-month break from football was all Clough could bear before he stepped back on the managerial roundabout at Nottingham.

Forest finished eighth in his first full season in charge — but the real old

second time.

Clough himself made no secret of the fact he was more than interested — "There's just no one else for the job," claimed fellow-manager Tommy Doc — and he was interviewed by the F.A. as one of the short-listed candidates.

Maybe Clough's reputation as an outspoken critic of the Establishment weighed against him in the final analysis, and the country's number one soccer job went to Ron Greenwood instead.

Greenwood, though, speedily recruited Clough's help in the running of the vital youth side — so giving him an opportunity of having a say in the future of English football, and also the opportunity to prove himself ready one day to take over as number one in that same future.

Meanwhile, Clough determined to prove himself in other ways. And he DID — with the League Championship, the League Cup, and the accolade of "Manager of the Year". (Not forgetting that his players also picked-up individual awards galore).

Can Clough keep it up? Was it all just a single-season flash-in-the-pan? His whole past record — not just over one astonishing, action-packed twelve months — seems to suggest he's on a winning streak.

And the first big test of things-to-come will surely arrive as early on as September... when Forest, in the European Cup for the very first time, have to take on two-year-holders Liverpool.

Anyone else would be choked at the wretched luck of England's two top clubs being drawn out together in the season's opening tie.

Not so Clough. He says — and means it — "We shall just have to face our Merseyside friends with the same commitment we would against any other leading European side."

And sure enough, win or lose, they will. For, above all else, the charismatic, controversial Brian Clough — manager extraordinary, and personality even more so — knows the way he wants football to be played.

The best way. The most entertaining way. The winning way. HIS WAY.

"Brian Clough is the sort of manager who has to dominate his players. If I'd ever joined him, he would have tried to dominate me — but, despite his record, I would not have the respect for him to let him do it. He knows how I feel about him — and he's never made any secret of the fact he's not too struck on me, either!"

— ALAN BALL

"I think his results speak for themselves. He's a very keen and dedicated individual. Wherever he is, Clough provides a good game of football for the fans."

— BILL NICHOLSON

"He's a man who has very few rules, and everyone has to stick by them. On any matter, his word is final — so you know exactly where you stand. Anyone can speak his mind at team meetings — but you know, at the end, Cloughie's right. All he asks is that a man plays to his strengths, and works on his weaknesses — and that's what we try to do for him."

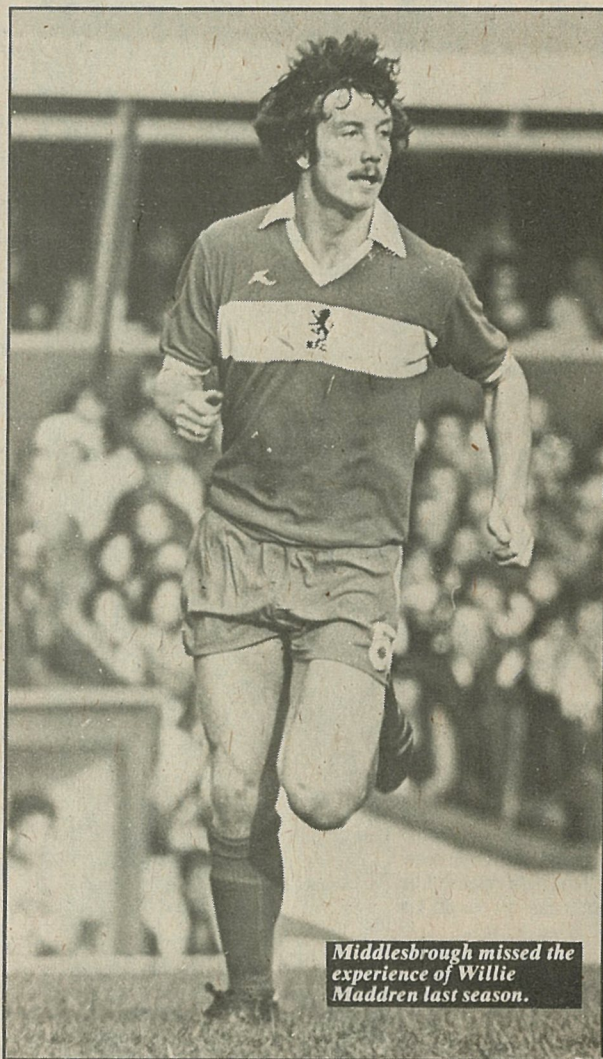
— JOHN McGOVERN

"Clough thinks he knows it all, but really he is a frightened man. He's has so much success as a manager that he's afraid he won't be able to keep it up."

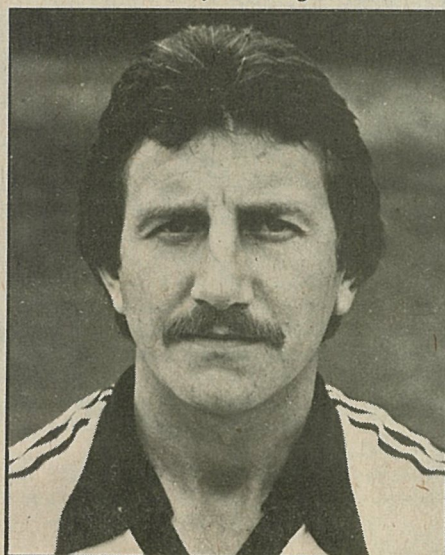
— BOB STOKOE

BETTER LUCK THIS TIME!

Hit by injury last term, these players are hoping for a trouble-free run . . .



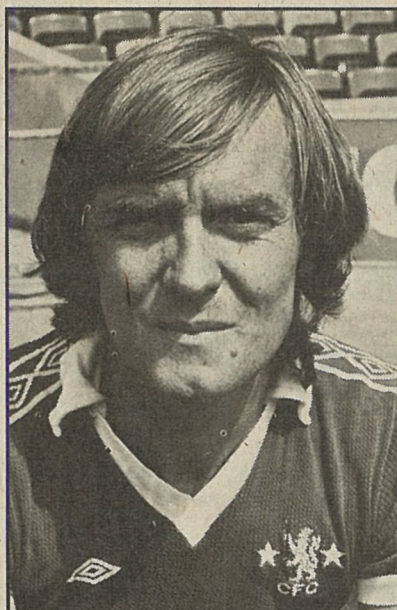
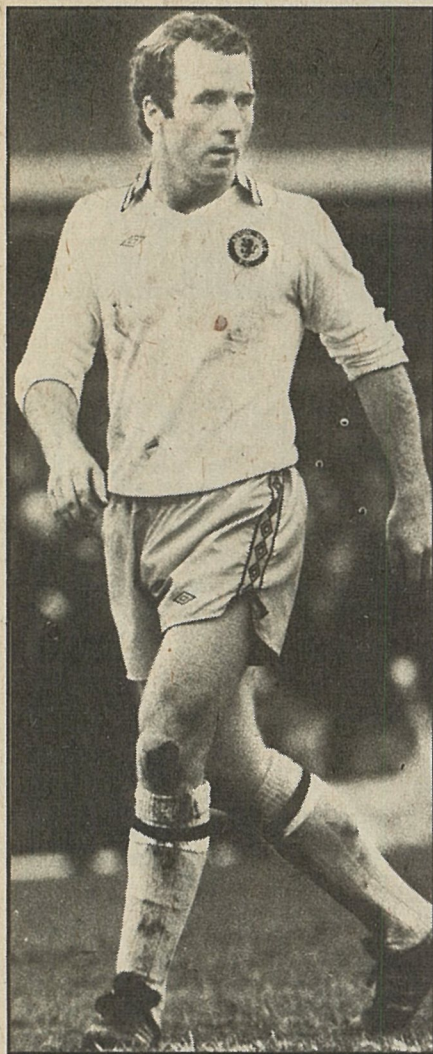
Middlesbrough missed the experience of Willie Maddren last season.



BELOW . . . Derby's Roy McFarland has rarely been free of injury in recent years. Let's hope 1978/79 sees better fortune for the former England star.



LEFT . . . Ipswich Town stopper Allan Hunter had a lot of knee trouble last term. Although he won an F.A. Cup winners' medal, he spent too much time for comfort in the treatment room — and looks like missing the start of this campaign.



LEFT . . . After a handful of games for Aston Villa, Tommy Craig had to drop out with a cartilage injury.

ABOVE . . . Now happily over eye operations, David Hay has signed a new contract with Chelsea.

BELOW . . . Peter Eastoe of Q.P.R. (hoops) missed the second half of last season. Rangers will need his goal-power this campaign.

RIGHT . . . It was thought John Gorman's ligament trouble would end his career. But the Spurs defender is hopeful of a first team comeback soon.





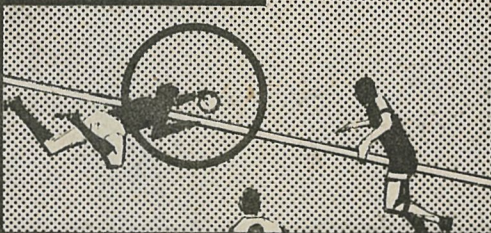
YOU ARE THE REF

CLIVE THOMAS, generally recognised as Britain's top referee, takes over this popular feature from this week. Clive, a FIFA official starting his 12th season in the Football League, is 42, married with

two daughters and has moved recently from Treorchy to Porthcawl. A promotions executive for the OCS group of companies, Clive has officiated in two World Cups, one F.A. Cup Final

and many European ties. He has refereed in 36 different countries and at the top of his list of interests is speaking about and promoting soccer "to help the game in any way I can".

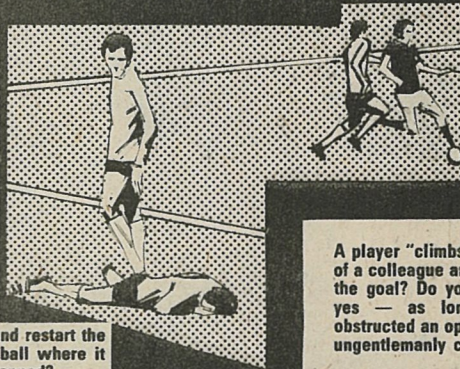
1 A goalkeeper outside his penalty-area reaches back and handles the ball inside the penalty-area. Has an infringement of the Laws occurred? We are now seeing goalkeepers come out of the penalty-area more, as happened in the World Cup in Argentina. The Peruvian goalkeeper, against Poland, came all the way to the halfway line. In fact, he was cautioned there for bringing a forward down with a rugby tackle.



3 An attacking player attempts to kick the ball whilst it is securely held in the goalkeeper's arms. Do you award (a) a direct free-kick or (b) an indirect free-kick?

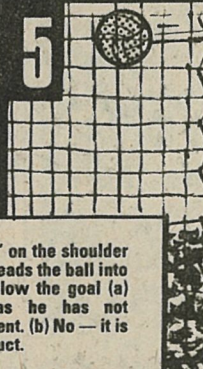


4 Two players of the same team engage in violent conduct when they are off the field, but the ball is in play. Do you (a) allow the game to go on and warn the players after the game has stopped, (b) stop play and caution the players and restart by dropping the ball nearest to where the players were or (c) stop play, dismiss the players from the field and restart the game by dropping the ball where it was when play was stopped?



A player "climbs up" on the shoulder of a colleague and heads the ball into the goal? Do you allow the goal (a) yes — as long as he has not obstructed an opponent. (b) No — it is ungentlemanly conduct.

5



2

If a player intentionally pulls an opponent's jersey, when the ball is in play, do you award (a) an indirect free-kick or (b) a direct free-kick? We used to see a lot of this type of foul in Continental countries, but it is surprising how much it goes on now in Britain.



ANSWERS

4. Stop play (c), dismiss the players from the field and restart the game by dropping the ball where it was when play was stopped.
5. No — it is classified as ungentlemanly conduct (b) and an indirect free-kick should be awarded to the opposing side. Many players feel they can do what they like to their team-mates, but the action shown is not permissible.

1. No. A goalkeeper can handle the ball anywhere in the penalty-area.
2. A direct free-kick (b) for holding.
3. An indirect free-kick (b) for dangerous play.

THE NEW CHALLENGE THAT MOTIVATES EMLYN HUGHES

THE man who has led Liverpool to more successes than any other skipper in the Anfield club's history, is still full of ambition as he looks ahead to the new season.

"There is always something to aim at," says Emlyn. "And with Liverpool, it is the wish to carry on as we have done over the last few seasons, trying to win a major trophy every time. In 1978-79, of course, there is the hope that we can lift the European Cup for the third successive time.

"Winning this Cup again will be difficult, and our task has been made much more difficult by being drawn against Nottingham Forest in the First Round. By becoming League Champions last season, Forest earned the right to be classed as the best team in England, and it will be a tremendous tussle against them.

"Yet there is a bright side about this tough fixture. If Liverpool can get over the Forest hurdle, we will feel extra confident that we can be successful in Europe again, and put the European Cup on the Anfield sideboard for the third year running."

It is not surprising that Emlyn rates Nottingham Forest so highly, as it was Brian Clough's team that defeated Liverpool in the Final of the League Cup, to make last season an auspicious one for newly-promoted Forest.

But Hughes forecasts harder times ahead for the League Champions. "Forest will find things more difficult in 1978-79, because teams now know what to expect from them. Though Nottingham will still be among the leaders, as they've proved they can get results with their attacking style.

"Also, Forest can expect another strong title bid by Liverpool. Over the last six seasons, we've won the First Division Championship three times, and on the other three occasions we've finished second. In fact, if you were to ask me what motivates me most, the answer would be that it is the challenge at Liverpool of at least doing as well as the season before. This is stimulating and keeps everybody on their toes.

"No team can turn in a brilliant performance every week, yet if Liverpool flagged a little last season in odd games there would be

Hughes beats Forest's Martin O'Neill (left) and Peter Withe during last term's League Cup replay at Old Trafford. Liverpool lost 1-0.



comments that we had had an off-day. However, when not at our best, we usually picked up points, and maybe the biggest indication of our success is that people expect so much of us.

"Along with success, there is always some disappointment, and for me, the biggest disappointment last term was losing the League Cup Final to Nottingham Forest. But that's not something I dwell on, and in the League, we

managed to find satisfaction in finishing above Everton.

"However, Everton are going to come into the reckoning in 1978-79, because I think their manager, Gordon Lee, has the right approach. Under him, the side has done well, and there should be plenty of friendly rivalry between

the two clubs on Merseyside in future."

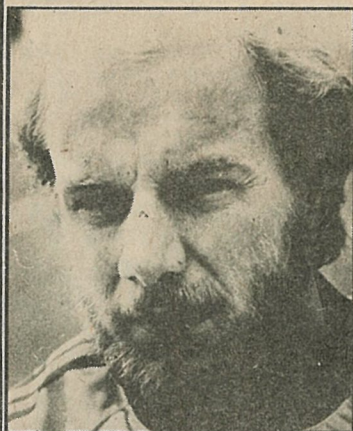
For Emlyn, the future is made brighter by this being his testimonial year — and it is certainly just reward for the Liverpool captain, who made his 600th first team appearance for the club last December. Signing for the Merseysiders back in February, 1967, Hughes has rendered the Anfield side tremendous service, and become a big favourite of the famous Kop.

And in addition to gaining F.A. Cup, U.E.F.A. Cup, European Cup, League and international honours, Emlyn was voted Footballer of the Year in 1977 by the Football Writers' Association. All this seems almost impossible to top, but Hughes reckons one of his biggest causes for satisfaction is the regard that other clubs have for Liverpool.

Says Emlyn: "The target many other teams set themselves is that of beating Liverpool — to me, this must be the highest token of respect."

Kenny Dalglish goes close during Liverpool's 0-0 draw with Everton at Anfield.





Europe's First "Soccer Sheikh"

SWEDISH international striker Thomas Sjöberg (above) of Champions Malmö FF is the very first European player to become a "soccer sheikh". Sjöberg has signed for Saudi Arabian top club Ittihad of Jeddah (managed by Ronnie Allen). The contract is for a period of eight months and will give Sjöberg a salary of at least £150,000, an incredible sum for a Swedish amateur player.

"The Arabian offer was so good no player in the world could resist it," Sjöberg says.

Capped 30 times, Sjöberg, who was one of only three players to score against Brazil in the World Cup Finals, should be a hit in the Arabian League. Judging from their national team that recently toured Sweden, having humiliating results against poor Swedish teams, the Saudi Arabian top clubs probably would be struggling even in our non-League football.

Last season 26-year-old Sjöberg had a short, disappointing spell with Karlsruhe in the West German Bundesliga without even getting a full game.

TWO men hoping to take Bayern Munich back to the top in West Germany... Paul Breitner (left), who rejoined the Bavarians from Eintracht Braunschweig, and new coach Gyalu Lorani.



WORLD WIDE

COMPILED BY

CHRIS DAVIES

'MARRIED' to join Barcelona

AS I write these lines, Barcelona are still dithering over the signing of Argentina's 22-year-old hard-tackling full-back Alberto Tarantini, and the story behind the possible transfer makes... er... interesting reading, and even now I'm not sure all the facts have come to public light.

On the face of it, Barcelona can't sign Tarantini because they've already got their full quota of two foreign players, Neeskens and Krankl, but Tarantini has been in dispute with his former club, Boca Juniors, for two years and is now legally entitled to arrange his own transfer — and keep the money!

He's keen on joining Barcelona with a lucrative contract. So keen,

in fact, he's trying to qualify for Spanish nationality by marrying a Spanish girl — which would mean Barcelona could sign him as a 'Spaniard'.

Unfortunately, Tarantini is involved in a much-publicised romance with sexy Argentinian actress "Pata" Villanueva, so he's had to part with a sum of money to persuade a Spanish girl to undertake a "marriage of convenience" while he continues his relationship with Senorita Villanueva.

With so much intrigue it looks as though, if Tarantini does finally sign for Barcelona I'll have to publish the details in a series of 26 weekly episodes!

Hungary have accepted the resignation of World Cup manager Lajos Baroti and have suspended Torocsik and Nyalisi (sent-off against Argentina) from international soccer for a year.

12 SIDES HAPPY TO AVOID RELEGATION

AS USUAL, the Spanish League looks like a four-horse race, with Barcelona, Valencia, Real and Atlético Madrid exercising their traditional superiority.

During the close season, all eyes have been on Barcelona, who are in a crucial stage of transition following the departures of president Montal, manager Michels and Dutch ace Cruyff — the three key men in the organisation. New president Núñez and new manager Muller have jointly spent over £1m on midfielders Félix and Tarrés and Austrian striker Krankl — and everyone's itching to see if the pesetas have been well spent.

Valencia, too, have spent a lot of money on West Germany's Rainer Bonhof (the best part of £700,000 if you include his wages), but there's no doubt Valencia will be a side to reckon with, once Bonhof's midfield dynam-

● The scores in the matches for the Brazilian Cup have been so meagre 50 coaches had a meeting the other day to find out what they could do about that. And they indeed came to two conclusions: first of all, the teams play so often they don't have time to train them. And, second, they have to resort to defensive tactics for fear of being dismissed by their clubs in case they risk too much and lose too often.

ONE MAN'S MEAT...

● If you're one of the people who reckon the transfer market is nothing more than a degrading cattle market, there's a club in Paraguay who agree with you completely.

C.F. San Juan in the town of Encarnación have just transferred two players, Diaz and Esquivel, for the princely sum of eight young bullocks (perhaps players wanted a bigger steak in their future) and then insulted reserve winger Vilalba by selling him in return for eight sheep.

I gather the player objected to having the wool pulled over his eyes, but the club say they had to give him the chop in order to meet financial commitments. The funniest part of the deal is the sheep were "stampeded" by a dog on the way from one club to the other, so the fee still hasn't been paid.

Presumably they've been given an I.O. Ewe!

ism is there to back up Kempes' explosive finishing.

Atlético Madrid have spent £650,000 on four home-grown Spaniards in a bid to strengthen their squad after a disappointing campaign, and new manager Héctor Núñez faces a difficult season in one of the hottest seats in Spanish football.

Over at Real, nothing's happened! For the first time for many years the defending Champs have signed no one.

Among the other 14 teams, all-Spanish Athletic Bilbao must be the strongest outsiders along with U.E.F.A. Cup contenders Sporting Gijón, and maybe Sevilla, who've now teamed-up Argentina's World Cup striker Bertoni with his compatriot "rocket-shot" Scotta.

The rest? They'll be hysterically happy if they avoid relegation!

DOMINATION BROKEN

● After a 19-year domination by Benfica and Sporting Lisbon, FC Porto won the Portuguese title last season... although Benfica's English boss John Mortimore can be considered a very unlucky man. The Eagles didn't lose a League game during 1977/78!

The new Champions could spring a surprise in the European Cup — remember they eliminated Manchester United and 1.F.C. Cologne in last term's Cup-Winners' Cup.

By and large, though, the two Lisbon giants will once again be favourites to carry off the Championship.



DUTCH EXODUS CONTINUES

THE EXODUS of top Dutch players has continued in the summer. Among the leading departures for foreign parts are centre-forward Ruud Geels from Ajax to Anderlecht in Belgium, World Cup defender Wim Rijsbergen to the French club Bastia and Feyenoord centre-forward Nico Jansen to RWD Molenbeek also of Belgium.

In addition, former Ajax full-back Wim Suurbier who had half a season with Schalke 04 in West Germany has joined Metz in France, while FC Den Haag midfielder player Martin Jol has gone to the Bundesliga club Bayern Munich.

Last season's runners-up Ajax, anxious to regain their title, have made the most significant signings with the capture of two Sparta Rotterdam players Ray Clarke (the one-time Spurs and Mansfield Town centre-forward) to replace top scorer Geels and Wim Meutstege a centre-back with international honours.

Feyenoord, a disappointing tenth, have a new trainer in Vaclav Jezek the former Czech national coach. The Rotterdammers have transferred midfielder Dick Schneider to Go Ahead Eagles and Jezek has already caused a close season furore by disciplining two players, Aad Mansveld and Rene Notten, for training irregularities.

PSV Eindhoven, the Champions who open the new season on August 27 at home to AZ 67, are still searching for a striker and might yet land their old favourite Ralf Edström, the Swedish World Cup player from Scandinavia. And with the experience that 22-year-olds like Jan Poortvliet and Ernie Brandts gathered in Argentina, the Philips-owned club should again be a difficult proposition.

Of the other Dutch First Division clubs, Twente Enschede and the Alkmaar club AZ 67 can be expected to press strongly for top placings as well.

NEW RECORD IN BRAZIL

IN BRAZIL, Botofogo were finally beaten after a run of 52 games without defeat. They lost 0-3 to Gremio of Porto Alegre in the Maracana. Some people, however, don't accept Botofogo's record, which beat the previous one of 46 games by Sao Paulo.

In a friendly match against Uberlandia, the referee awarded a penalty against Botofogo with the score at 2-2 with two minutes to go. Botofogo walked off in disgust, although the referee said the official result was still 2-2, and the Brazilian authorities accepted that.

Others, notably, Botofogo's rivals, claim the new record is false.

Brazil Boss won't apologise

JOAO HAVELANGE, president of F.I.F.A., is still determined to have Claudio Coutinho (left), coach of the Brazilian team during the last World Cup, put on the carpet on account of his declarations "politics had much to do with what happened in Argentina".

Coutinho was particularly incensed Brazil had to play Poland hours before Argentina played Peru and he said "that was against the best interests of sport."

Havelange, apparently, wants Coutinho to take his words back, but he hasn't done so. Almost at the same time, a protest

Dutch stars in Belgium — Robby Rensenbrink and Arie Haan.



Barcelona will try again for Keegan

BARCELONA made abortive moves to sign Kevin Keegan during the summer, and have hinted they'll be trying again in 1979. Hungarian-born middle man Gyula Pasztor, who claims to be Kevin's manager (?) has revealed the

talks broke down because Hamburger SV decided they wanted to keep Keegan for one more season (see article pages 36, 37).

Strangely, Barcelona were offering Dutch international midfielder Johan Neeskens in part-exchange, and apparently Johan Cruyff was so upset Barcelona wanted to get rid of his friend he's reported to have said: "If they sell Johan, I'll go to play, free, for Barcelona's local arch-rivals Espanol."

This is hard to believe, especially as Barcelona still owe Cruyff £125,000 of his earnings last season.

WORLD CUP CAPTAIN SENT-OFF



ARGENTINA'S World Cup star Mario Kempes has signed a publicity contract which guarantees him a fee of £175,000 a year.

ARGENTINA captain Daniel Passarella was sent-off in the second-half of the River Plate/Boca Juniors local derby. Passarella had been booked in the first-half for dissent and was shown the red card following a bad challenge on Boca 'keeper Santos.

Our correspondent in Buenos Aires tells us Passarella is finding it difficult to motivate himself for League games so soon after winning the World Cup. Incidentally, River's best player was Alejandro Sabella and his performance was enough to convince Sheffield United manager Harry Haslam he could do a good job for him in England.

● Picture shows the two captains before "el clásico" — the classic derby — Passarella (left) of River and Supé of Boca.

DENMARK hope to have all their full-time professionals playing abroad ... Allan Simonsen (W. Germany) and Henning Jensen (Spain) for instance ... released for the European Championship tie v. England.

Boniek, Marius Trésor, Bruno Pezzey, Herbert Prohaska, Arie Haan, Wim Rijsbergen, Teofilio Cubillas, Tarek, Leonardo Cuéllar, Dirceu, Mario Kempes, Pató Fillol, Daniel Passarella, Leopoldo Luque and Américo Gallego. Not Willie Johnston ...

All Belgium want is... SUCCESS!

THE FIGHT for the League title promises to be a very close affair. The most experienced teams in Belgium are the ones being put forward as favourites: FC Bruges (last season's Champions), Anderlecht (E.C.W.C. winners) and Standard Liege.

These teams have signed valuable players: FC Bruges — Walter Meeuws, the sweeper of the Belgian national team, from Beerschot. Anderlecht got Ruud Geels, the Dutch goal-ace from Ajax. And Standard found some talented youngsters to replace their German top-scorer Harald Nickel, who left the club for Eintracht Braunschweig in the German Bundesliga.

The surprise-team could well be Beerschot. They have strengthened their squad with Poland goalkeeper Tomaszewski and some experienced midfielders. Other candidates for the top five places are RWD Molenbeek, Lierse and Antwerp FC.

It could be Anderlecht who will clinch the title. But it will be very close indeed!

As for the national team, their aim is to qualify for the European Championship Finals in Italy in 1980. The manager, Guy Thijs, who started rebuilding the team by including several youngsters, said: "I hope the young players gained enough experience during the transitional period over the last two years. All we want now is success!"

The Belgian side, one of the youngest around, has to prove whether they are good enough to compete with Scotland, Austria, Norway and Portugal in one of the toughest qualifying groups.

Time will tell ...

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STARS ON PARADE

● On August 30th, the Cosmos play a World Cup XI, managed by Argentina boss César Luis Menotti. Among the World Cup stars who have agreed to play are Hansi Muller, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, Rainer Bonhof, Grzegorz Lato, Zbigniew

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CLUB SPOTLIGHT

compiled by JOHN PYKE

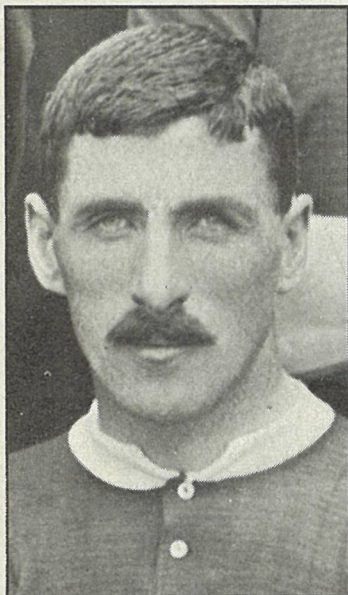
Manchester City Five years of glory

YOUNGER Manchester City supporters will not give the name Ardwick a second glance. But that was the name City played under when they joined the newly-formed Second Division in 1892.

Ardwick played for only two seasons, then in 1894 the club was reformed under its present title.

Even more surprising is the fact City have only played at Maine Road since 1923. Before that year the club played on a piece of land rented from the railway called Hyde Road.

The first major honour won by



City was the F.A. Cup in 1904 when Billy Meredith, one of the all-time greats of British soccer, scored the only goal in the Final against Bolton Wanderers.

Thirty more years were to pass before the next major piece of silverware was placed in the City boardroom. Then the Maine Road club won the F.A. Cup for the second time. That Final in 1934 will always be remembered because the City goalkeeper fainted at the end of the match.

Frank Swift was barely 20 and had not played in the first team for nearly six months when he appeared at Wembley against Portsmouth in the Final.

Portsmouth had taken the lead and in a tense game City snatched the winner three minutes from time and young Swift, soon to become one of England's finest goalkeepers, found the tension too much for him and momentarily passed out.

Three seasons later in 1936-37, City won their first League Cham-

pionship. They had won the Second Division title four times before their First Division triumph, in 1898-99, 1902-03, 1909-10 and 1927-28 and later still were to win the Second twice more — in 1946-47 and 1965-66.

Since World War Two, City have twice more won the F.A. Cup — in 1956 and 1969 — taken a second League title to Maine Road in 1967-68 and two seasons later won a major European honour.

Under the vast experience of then-manager Joe Mercer and his assistant and coach Malcolm Allison, City won the European Cup-Winners' Cup on a rain-soaked Vienna pitch by beating Poland's Gornik Zabrze in the Final. While in the same season winning the Football League Cup.

It climaxed a great five-year spell by the pair. City having won promotion to the First Division in 1965-66, quickly followed by the League title in 1967-68 and the following year the F.A. Cup.

The last trophy won by City was the League Cup in 1976.

Billy Meredith (left) scored the goal that clinched City's first F.A. Cup triumph. Manchester City players (below) proudly display the League Cup to their fans after their 1970 win. Frank Swift (right) fainted after an F.A. Cup Final



CITY ROLL OF HONOUR

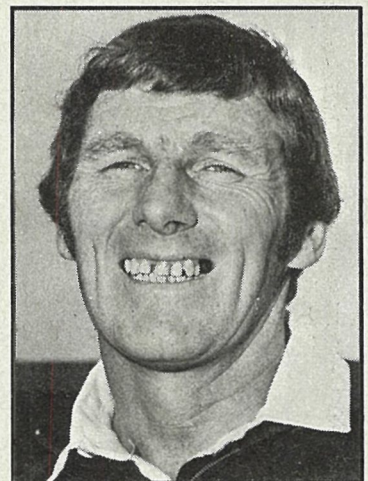
First Division Champions: 1936-37, 1967-68

Second Division Champions: 1898-99, 1902-03, 1909-10, 1927-28, 1946-47, 1965-66.

F.A. Cup winners: 1904, 1934, 1956, 1969.

Football League Cup winners: 1970, 1976.

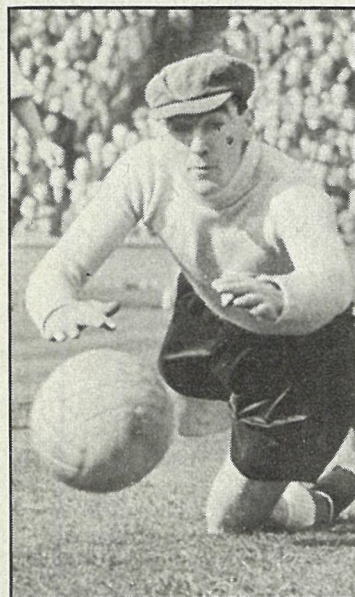
European Cup-Winners' Cup winners: 1970.



Tony Book, boss at Maine Road.

Top League Scorers

1973-74	Francis Lee.....	10
1974-75	Colin Bell.....	15
1975-76	Dennis Tueart.....	14
1976-77	Brian Kidd.....	21
1977-78	Brian Kidd.....	16



LEAGUE FIXTURES

Date	Opponents	Venue
1978		
Aug		
19	Derby Co.	A
22	Arsenal.....	H
26	Liverpool.....	H
Sept		
2	Norwich C.	A
9	Leeds U.....	H
16	Chelsea.....	A
23	Tottenham H.....	H
30	Manchester U.....	A
Oct		
7	Birmingham C.....	A
14	Coventry C.....	H
21	Bolton W.....	A
28	W.B.A.....	H
Nov		
4	Aston Villa.....	A
11	Derby Co.....	H
18	Liverpool.....	A
25	Norwich C.....	H
21	Ipswich T.....	H
Dec		
2	Wolves.....	A
9	Southampton.....	H
16	Q.P.R.....	A
23	Nottm. For.....	H
26	Everton.....	A
30	Bristol C.....	A
Jan		
1	Middlesbrough.....	H
13	Leeds U.....	A
20	Chelsea.....	H
Feb		
3	Tottenham H.....	A
10	Manchester U.....	H
17	Birmingham C.....	H
24	Coventry C.....	A
Mar		
3	Bolton W.....	H
10	W.B.A.....	A
17	Aston Villa.....	H
24	Arsenal.....	A
31	Ipswich T.....	A
Apr		
7	Wolves.....	H
11	Nottm. For.....	A
14	Everton.....	H
17	Middlesbrough.....	A
21	Q.P.R.....	H
28	Southampton.....	A
May		
5	Bristol C.....	H

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Continued on page 30.

MANCHES



STER CITY

BACK ROW (left to right): Roger Palmer, Paul Fitcher, Tommy Booth, Joe Corrigan, Kenny Clements, Colin Bell, Dave Bennett.

CENTRE ROW: Tony Book (manager), Gary Buckley, Paul Power, Tony Henry, Willie Donachie, Ray Ranson, Russell Coughlin, Bill Taylor (asst. manager).

FRONT ROW: Gary Owen, Peter Barnes, Brian Kidd, Dave Watson, Asa Hartford, Mike Channon, Ged Keegan.



SHOOT!

CLUB SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

PEN-PICTURES

(L. App:— League Appearances; G:— Goals; S:— Substitutes. All records to end of the 1977-78 season)

PETER BARNES: Winger who won a full England place last season with his exciting play and looks a regular on the international scene for years to come. Signed professional for City in July, 1974 and is the son of former City star Ken Barnes. Peter (below) made his



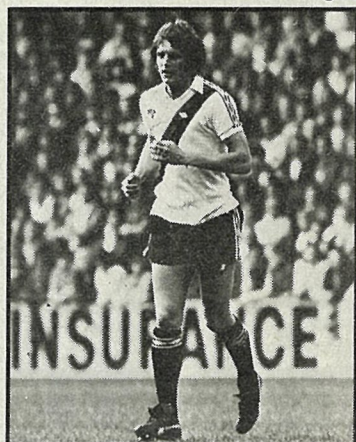
first team debut at Manchester United's Old Trafford in a League Cup match in 1974. Born Manchester. Ht. 5.10. Wt. 11.4. L. App:— 79 and 7 sub. G:— 14.

COLIN BELL: Midfield star who made a welcome return to the First Division after being injured for two years. Colin was soon showing the form that won him 48 full England caps before his injury. Signed from Bury for £45,000 in March, 1966. Born Hesleden. Ht. 5.11½. Wt. 11.6½. L. App:— Bury 82, Man. City 383 and 1 sub. G:— Bury 25, Man. City 117.

TOMMY BOOTH: Midfield or defence, Tommy can play in either department for City who he joined as a professional in August, 1967.

An England Under-23 international. Debut against Arsenal in October, 1968. Born Manchester. Ht. 6.1. Wt. 11.12½. L. App:— 303 and 2 sub. G:— 25.

MIKE CHANNON: Striker who is on his way to 50 full caps for England. Cost City £300,000 when they signed him from Southampton in July, 1977 and Mike (below) finished his first season with the Maine Road club with 12 League

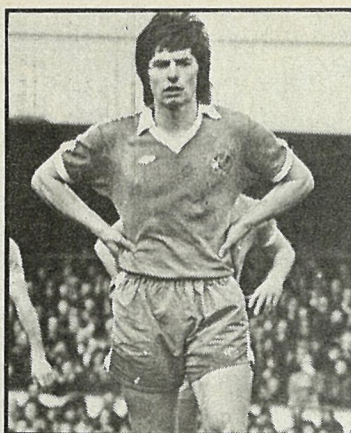


goals. Born Orcheston. Ht. 6.0½. Wt. 11.6. L. App:— Southampton 388 and 4 sub, Man. City 33 and one sub. G:— Southampton 155, Man. City 12.

KEN CLEMENTS: Defender who completed his 100th League game for City last season after signing professional in July, 1975. Ken had played as an amateur for City for three seasons before signing pro. Born Manchester. Ht. 6.1 Wt. 12.6. L. App:— 103 and 3 sub.

JOE CORRIGAN: Giant goalkeeper who won a second England cap last season when he played against Brazil at Wembley. His skill was spotted by City in a club trial and he signed professional in January, 1967. First team debut in the League Cup v Blackpool in October, 1967. Born Manchester. Ht. 6.4½. Wt. 15.11½. L. App:— 291.

WILLIE DONACHIE: Defender who played in Scotland's World Cup



team in Argentina in the summer. Joined City as an amateur and signed professional for City in December, 1968. Willie (above) made his League debut v Crystal Palace in April, 1970. Born Glasgow. Ht. 5.9. Wt. 11.3. L. App:— 290 and 4 sub. G:— 2.

PAUL FUTCHER: Central-defender signed at a cost of £350,000 in July from Luton Town. England Under-21 international and on the verge of a place in the full England side. Born Chester. Ht. 5.10. Wt. 10.6. L. App:— Chester 20, Luton 130. G:— Luton 3.

RON FUTCHER: Twin brother of Paul, but Ron is a striker with a good scoring record. City hope to sign him when he finishes the summer season in America. Born Chester. Ht. 5.10. Wt. 10.3. L. App:— Chester 4, Luton 100 and 6 sub. G:— Luton 37.

ASA HARTFORD: Inspiration of the City midfield and a full Scottish international who played in the World Cup Finals in Argentina. Noted for his tremendous work-rate and cost £225,000 when signed from West Bromwich Albion in 1974. Born Clydebank. Ht. 5.7. Wt. 10.6. L. App:— W.B.A. 206 and 8 sub, Man. City 145 and 1 sub. G:— W.B.A. 18, Man. City 19.

BRIAN KIDD: Striker who has been top scorer for City in the past two seasons. Cost £100,000 when

signed from Arsenal in July, 1976. Scored and won a European Cup winners' medal on his 19th birthday when with Manchester United. A full England international. Born Manchester. Ht. 6.0. Wt. 12.12. L. App:— Man. Utd. 195 and 8 sub, Arsenal 77, Man. City 78. G:— Man. Utd. 52, Arsenal 30, Man. City 37.

GARY OWEN: Outstanding midfielder and England Under-21 player who signed professional for City in July, 1975. Born St. Helens. Ht. 5.9. Wt. 9.9. L. App:— 67 and 1 sub. G:— 8.

ROGER PALMER: Striker who scored twice on his League debut for City at Newcastle United on March 29th, 1978. Born Manchester. Ht. 5.10. Wt. 10.10. L. App:— 4 and 1 sub. G:— 3.

PAUL POWER: Another of the fine players at Maine Road. Midfielder who was at University for three years before signing professional for City in July, 1975. Born Manchester. Ht. 5.11. Wt. 10.13. L. App:— 70 and 7 sub. G:— 6.

DAVE WATSON: Big Dave (below) had a brilliant season for City and England in 1977-78. Has settled after summer talk of a transfer to Europe. City paid Sunderland



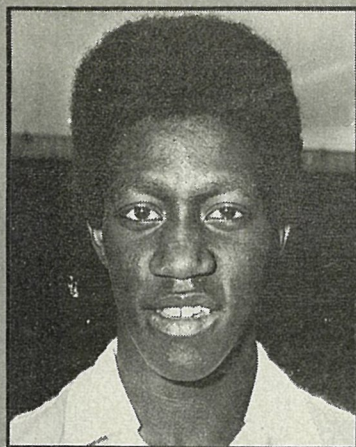
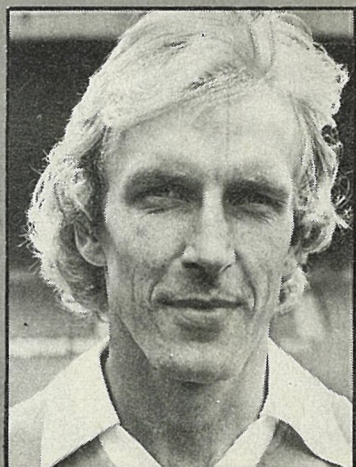
£200,000 in June, 1975 for this central-defender. Born Nottingham. Ht. 5.11½. Wt. 11.7. L. App:— Notts Co 22 and 1 sub, Rotherham 121, Sunderland 177, Man. City 113. G:— Notts Co. 1, Rotherham 19, Sunderland 27, Man. City 3.

Strengthened City high hopes for honours

THERE is an air of excitement hanging over the City of Manchester as the new season gets under way. Rival United await the first full season of their near-million pound signings Gordon McQueen and Joe Jordan, and at Maine Road the City team that finished fourth in the First Division are convinced that they can go all the way and win the League Championship.

As City supporters awaited the eventual negative outcome of the long drawn-out saga of Gerry Francis, manager Tony Book had already signed Paul Futer. He is one of the outstanding young defenders in the country, while a fee of £350,000 helped reduce the Bedfordshire club's debit account.

Futer could well take over the England number five shirt from new



LEFT ... Summer signing from Luton, Paul Futer. ABOVE ... youngster Roger Palmer.

team-mate Dave Watson in the near future.

The £80,000 City hope to spend on Paul's twin brother Ron will give striking cover to Brian Kidd, Mike Channon and Peter Barnes.

Peter Barnes fully deserved his call-up to the England side for the match v Italy last November at Wembley and retained his place in the international side with some brilliant displays of attacking wing play.

Not far behind Barnes is Gary Owen. A player with a lot of stamina and already an England Under-21 star.

A youngster to watch out for on the City books is Roger Palmer. He crowned his League debut by scoring two goals at Newcastle over Easter and a couple of days later scored in a 2-1 home win v Ipswich Town.

Now the future looks very exciting for City. Apart from their expected tilt at the League Championship, City start their campaign in the U.E.F.A. Cup against Twente Enschede (Holland) with high hopes of further progress.

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Naughty... Naughty

FOUR players — three of them internationals — will be looking to improve on their disciplinary records of last season. Bruce Rioch (Derby County's Scotland skipper), George Graham (Crystal Palace) and John Gidman (Aston Villa) were all sent-off twice. The other culprit was Charlton Athletic defender Phil Warman.

FANS will be hoping that opening day scoring trends continue on 1977-78 lines. The total of 136 from 46 Football League matches was the highest since the mid-Sixties.

TOMMY Callaghan, the former Celtic midfielder, has been appointed player-manager of Eire club Galway Rovers.

BRISTOL City recently signed seven 16-year-old apprentice professionals to boost their youth team. The club now has 12 youngsters on their books — the highest ever.

DEMANDS OF ENGLISH SOCCER WON'T BEAT TOTTENHAM'S ARGENTINIANS

THE Transfer Deal of the Century goes on show this weekend as Spurs reveal their £750,000 Argentina World Cup stars Osvaldo Ardiles and Ricardo Villa.

The North London club are to be congratulated for gambling on the two South American midfield-men; while few would doubt their ability, paying almost a million pounds for players who have never performed in a European League is still something of a risk.

But Spurs manager Keith Burkinshaw has no doubts Ardiles and Villa will succeed.

He told us: "I can't wait for the game against Nottingham Forest. I think everyone will like these two lads. Not only are they great footballers, but in the short time I've known them they've struck me as terrific people as well."

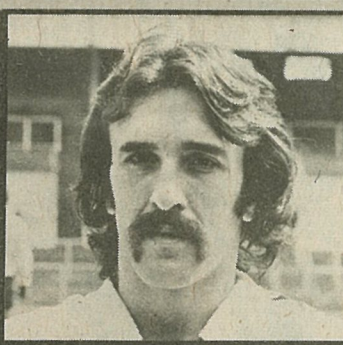
"I'm sure they'll adapt to the demands of the English game. Okay, so they can't speak English. There is a language problem in many Leagues with foreign players. Because it's happening here people think it's an insurmountable problem!

"Just as they're professional on the field, I've no doubt they'll knuckle down and learn English. They're having private tuition and as we have a fine bunch of lads at Spurs, they'll have every assistance here."

"At first they'll feel a little out of



Osvaldo Ardiles



Ricardo Villa

things, with the jokes flying around the dressing room. But I see no trouble regarding team-talks.

"Great players have the ability to improvise on the field. It's no use talking about these tactics or that system... the game changes every two minutes, so they'll have to do whatever is necessary."

"The deal started at the beginning of July. Sheffield United manager Harry Haslam, who has contacts in Argentina and recently signed one, Alex Sabella, rang me to say Ardiles may be available. I'd been trying all summer to sign two players, so as no British stars were available I was more or less forced to go elsewhere. I conducted the deal in exactly the same way as I have every transfer with a domestic club."

"Initially I was only after Ardiles. I was told someone else was interested in Villa... that someone was Arsenal. When they dropped out of the deal I stepped in."

"I know the introduction of this pair and John Lacy will upset some players. This always happens with the squad system. To win honours a club needs a strong first team pool, but I can't play 15 or 16 players each week. I hope those left out will be happy to be part of what I think will be a successful club."

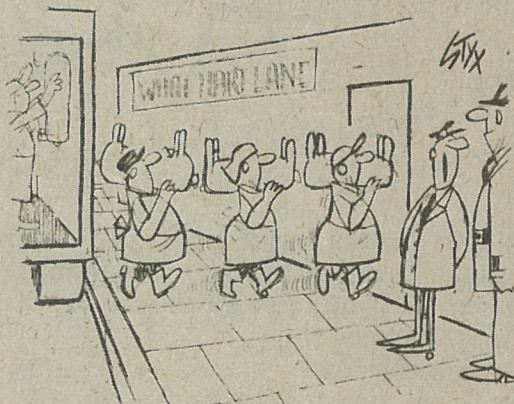
No Trouble

"If Argentina have an international match, and it doesn't clash with any really important Spurs game, I'd be delighted to release them. I don't see any trouble here; remember, Argentina have already qualified for the 1982 World Cup Finals!"

"I've driven the lads around the area North of London where most of the players live. I insisted they waited until their wives arrived before making any definite decision."

"I bought a house in Newcastle before my wife saw it and I never heard the last of it!"

"I BELIEVE IT'S A SPECIAL DELIVERY FROM ARGENTINA"



MEET THE SPURS

● Tottenham Hotspur fans have got the chance to take advantage of a special open day at the club's Cheshunt training ground next Sunday (August 20th).

As well as being able to chat to the players, and collect their autographs, including Osvaldo Ardiles and Ricardo Villa, fans can watch the squad being put through a training session — and even get the chance to join in themselves.

To round off the day there'll be a celebrity match, with Spurs' favourites from the past, such as Jimmy Greaves and Alan Gilzean taking part.

It sounds like a great day out.

ULSTER KICK-OFF

THE Northern Ireland campaign begins in earnest on Saturday with the opening round of fixtures in the Moran-sponsored Ulster Cup competition.

Current holders Linfield, Ulster's League and Cup "double" winners last term, begin their defence of the trophy with a home clash v. Portadown, though the "Match of the Day" could be the "Battle of the Glens", between Glenavon and Glentoran, at Mourneview Park.

Other opening games in this lucrative, League-style tournament are Coleraine v. Bangor, Ards v. Crusaders, Larne v. Cliftonville, and Distillery v. Ballymena United.

NEWS

Compiled by Peter Stewart



DESK

THE odds must be astronomical against Manchester United — or any of the other 91 Football League clubs — doing a repeat of the Old Trafford club's 1930-31 start.

It was the worst in history... 12 First Division matches without a win in which United scored only 13 goals and conceded 46. For the record, the sides which beat them were Aston Villa, Middlesbrough, Chelsea, Huddersfield (twice), Newcastle, Sheffield Wednesday, Grimsby Town, Manchester City, West Ham, Arsenal and Portsmouth. The sequence ended with a 2-0 home win against Birmingham. But the points lost cost United their First Division status.

They were relegated with 22 points — nine fewer than Leeds, who went down with them.



TARGET FOR NEW BOYS

IF Wigan Athletic open their Football League career with a Fourth Division win against Hereford, they will be only the seventh newcomers out of 21 to the League since 1922 to have won their first game.

The six were Carlisle, York (against the now defunct Wigan Borough), Mansfield, Aldershot, Ipswich and Peterborough.

CAMBRIDGE United's Graham Watson must wonder what's in store for him in the Second Division. All told, during his years with Doncaster Rovers and Cambridge, Graham has been involved in five promotion and four relegation seasons.

FORMER Motherwell midfielder Willie Hunter, who also had a short stint with Hibs, is the new manager of Queen of the South. The Palmerston club lost their boss Mike Jackson in the close-season when he decided to join Morton as assistant to Benny Rooney.

PROUD RECORD

SHREWSBURY Town had one record to be proud of last season. No fewer than four of their players Sammy Irvine (left, now Stoke), Paul Maguire, Ian Atkins (right) and Chic Bates (centre, now Swindon), registered hat-tricks. No other club in the League had more than two hat-trick men.

Well done, Shrewsbury Town.



SOCCER IN THE STATES

FURPHY'S WINNING TEAM

WHEN Ken Furphy was appointed coach of the Detroit Express, he was told by part-owner Jimmy Hill: "Just get on with the job — don't bother to ring me."

Furphy, the ex-Sheffield United manager, has got on with the job better than anyone could have expected. He's built a team that in its first year of existence, clinched their Divisional title before anyone else in the North American League. They're runaway winners of the American Conference's central Division.

His team is mostly made up of British players. There's goalkeeper Steve Hardwicke, defenders Ian Davies, Eddie Colquhoun, Graham Oates and Steve Seargent, midfielders Micky Leach, Dave Bradford and Steve Earle and striker Alan Brazil. The other two strikers are Ken's son Keith and Birmingham's Trevor Francis, who rattled in 18 goals in 16 games to clinch the playoff place.

Says Furphy senior: "I felt happier signing British players because they were people I knew on an off the field. If you go to Poland or Yugoslavia to watch a player, you have to make your judgment on one game and you don't know anything about the fellow's personality."



Problems for Ballie...

ALAN Ball (seen with Peter Osgood) took training several times at Southampton last season so he had no trouble adjusting to his role as player-coach of Philadelphia Fury.

Ball took over the coaching role when Richard Dinnis resigned, even though he knew he was facing an uphill struggle.

He said: "To be honest, I wouldn't have taken over an English club with so many bad players and so poorly organised. But I was on the spot there and I was delighted when they asked me. I couldn't take over quickly enough."

"Obviously, it's a lot different to England, and one of the problems is to keep players happy when they're not getting in the team. There's no reserve side at Fury so I had players who had been at the club months and hadn't had a game. You can imagine how they felt."

"I think I'm a good coach but I realise now that even the best needs good players around him, good equipment, good management, good areas to train and good professionalism."

"I walked into a very mediocre set up but now I've thought of all the things I know would help me become a great manager and a great coach. One day, I want to become as good a coach as I've been a player."

... AND OAKLAND STOMPERS

OAKLAND Stompers have had their problems on and off the pitch this season, but it's doubtful if any club has matched their feat of changing their coach SIX times in one week.

When owner Milan Mandaric fired Mirko Stojanovic as coach, he appointed Jack Hyde to take over. The next day, he fired Hyde, too — after the latter had asked for more money.

Players Shep Messing, Charlie Mrosko and Johnny Moore were then told they were in charge, all with equal say in running the show.

They lasted a couple of days before Jim Bracewall was given the head coaching job.

THE NASL HAVE NOW FINALISED PLANS FOR THEIR INDOOR LEAGUE NEXT WINTER. IT WILL START ON DECEMBER 15TH AND EACH TEAM WILL PLAY 10 GAMES BETWEEN THEN AND FEBRUARY 24, 1979.

There will be three Divisions — East, Central and West — with eight teams qualifying for the playoffs.

CARLOS Alberto, the 33-year-old Brazilian defender, is still unhappy with his contract at the Cosmos. Alberto is reportedly getting over £100,000 a season, but he has since learned what people like Franz Beckenbauer, Dennis Tueart and Giorgio Chinaglia are getting, and thinks he's being poorly treated.

That sinking feeling

ONE player who surely deserves a break in the new season is Bradford City midfielder Terry Dolan (below).

Terry started his League career across the city with Bradford (Park Avenue). In his first season 1968-69 the club had to apply for re-election, and the following season they were voted out of the League. He moved on to Huddersfield — and another succession of mishaps — relegation from Division One to Division Two (1971-2), Division Two to Division Three (1972-3) and Division Three to Division Four (1974-5). Last season he experienced that sinking feeling again going back down to Division Four with Bradford City.

It really shouldn't happen to anyone, should it?



SUCCESS FOR FREEMAN WILL COST BRUM

£30,000

IS it going to be fourth time lucky for goalkeeper Neil Freeman? Recently he moved to Birmingham City in a deal which could be worth £80,000 to Southend — if he makes the grade at St. Andrews.

Birmingham have paid Southend £50,000 with a further £30,000 to come at a later date.

Freeman, who had short spells with Arsenal and Grimsby Town before catching the eye with Southend, recognises the fine opportunity he has with Birmingham.

Current number one, Jim Montgomery, is well into the veteran stage but no one can discount the ex-Sunderland 'keeper who was one of the few successes in the Birmingham side last season.

Freeman knows the score. He said: "I am fully aware that I have got to wait for my chance but manager Jim Smith has promised me that when the time comes the spot will be there for me to take... with both hands."

Rain Stopped Play

WE wonder if rain will stop play this Saturday (August 19th) just as it did a year ago?

The clubs later to meet in the F.A. Cup Final, Ipswich and Arsenal, were in action at Portman Road.

Six minutes into the second-half Leicester referee Roger Kirkpatrick brought them off for 11 minutes until the rain subsided.

Ipswich won 1-0 with a David Gaddis goal.



Skipper of Wolves

KENNY Hibbitt (left), who missed the last few months of the 1977-78 season with an injury, has been appointed Wolves' new skipper.

Hibbitt replaces Frank Munro who has recently gone to Australia to play after being released by Celtic.

The club captain is still John Richards, who strangely did not take over when Munro left Molineux.

This job was given to Willie Carr, who was replaced by Steve Daley near the end of the season when the former Scottish international was injured.

Hibbitt, who completes ten seasons at Molineux in November, cost only £5,000 when signed by Ronnie Allen from Bradford in 1968. Since then he has scored 65 goals in over 250 League games.

WHEN Bolton Wanderers won promotion to the First Division last season it was for the sixth time in their illustrious career dating back to 1888. No one has ever been promoted to the top Division so many times.

STEPHEN Balcombe, a 16-year-old from Eire amateurs Home Farm, has joined Leeds United as an apprentice. Stephen's parents are English, he was born in Wales and has been capped by Eire at schoolboy level.

BOHS BANNED

EIRE League Champions, Bohemians, banned from playing Euro Cup matches within 150 miles of their Dalymount home ground following incidents in a U.E.F.A. Cup game against Newcastle last season, have fixed their European Cup First Round clash with Omonia of Cyprus for Flower Lodge, Cork, on September 27.

HEAVIEST DEFEAT

SAN Jose, the club with the worst showing in the NASL, have at least earned themselves a couple of mentions in the record book, although they would rather have kept out of it.

Their 10-0 hammering at Detroit was the heaviest ever and their 13 game losing streak the longest ever.

Ironically, the losing spell ended when San Jose visited Los Angeles Aztecs, the former club of coach Terry Fisher.

It was the first time Fisher had tasted success in eight games as San Jose boss and it was also his first win at the Aztecs' Rose Bowl home. They lost every game there under him.

LEAGUE TABLES

(at 28th July)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Western Division

	W	L	GF	GA	Pts
Vancouver	21	6	54	25	173
Portland	18	9	43	31	148
Seattle	12	15	40	40	112
Los Angeles	8	19	34	59	80

Central Division

	W	L	GF	GA	Pts
Tulsa	16	12	47	42	139
Minnesota	14	13	47	43	130
Dallas	12	14	41	46	112
Colorado	8	19	31	58	78

Eastern Division

	W	L	GF	GA	Pts
Cosmos	21	5	81	32	193
Washington	16	11	54	42	145
Toronto	14	13	53	41	127
Rochester	12	15	43	47	115

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Western Division

	W	L	GF	GA	Pts
San Diego	16	11	57	50	146
Cal Surf	12	15	36	41	104
Oakland	12	15	30	49	97
San Jose	7	20	34	69	75

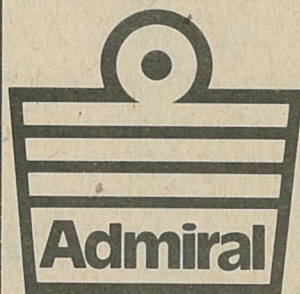
Central Division

	W	L	GF	GA	Pts
Detroit	18	9	61	31	158
Chicago	10	18	52	62	106
Houston	9	17	34	52	93
Memphis	9	18	37	52	89

Eastern Division

	W	L	GF	GA	Pts
New England	17	10	57	35	148
Tampa Bay	16	11	54	43	146
Ft. Lauderdale	15	13	46	54	133
Philadelphia	10	17	33	52	92

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THE MANCHESTER UNITED AND SCOTLAND STAR SIGNS FOR SHOOT

ONE OF the reasons I was so
thrilled at being invited to join
SHOOT's team of star-writers by
Editor David Gregory was because I
have been a regular reader of the
magazine since it was first pub-
lished back in August, 1969.

During those days SHOOT only
had one regular columnist, Bobby
Moore. Now there are seven.

It just goes to show how success-
ful the magazine has become over
the past nine years.

Back in '69 I was a young lad of 17
playing for a team in Largs, a small
town in Ayrshire close to Kilbirnie
where I was born. The nearest big
city is Glasgow, about 30 miles
away.

Like most youngsters I wanted to
become a soccer professional and
dreamed of playing for Celtic, Ran-
gers ... or Manchester United.

In those days I imagined myself
lining-up alongside my boyhood
idol, Denis Law.

But then, Denis, for many years
the King of Old Trafford, was the
favourite player of many Scots living
on either side of the border.

I suppose it was only natural I
idolised Denis — a famous footbal-
ler with one of the top clubs in the
country. You see, my father was a
pro. with Hibs, Motherwell, Hamil-
ton Accies and Accrington Stanley.

Dad was a goalkeeper and

encouraged me every kick of the
way in the pursuit of my schoolboy
dreams.

My heart was so set in following
Dad into the game I'm afraid I paid
little attention to my academic
studies.

While my teachers at Kilbirnie
Central School tried desperately to
teach me the fundamentals of
algebra, logarithms and the English
language, my thoughts were on
Ibrox, Parkhead, Hampden or Old
Trafford.

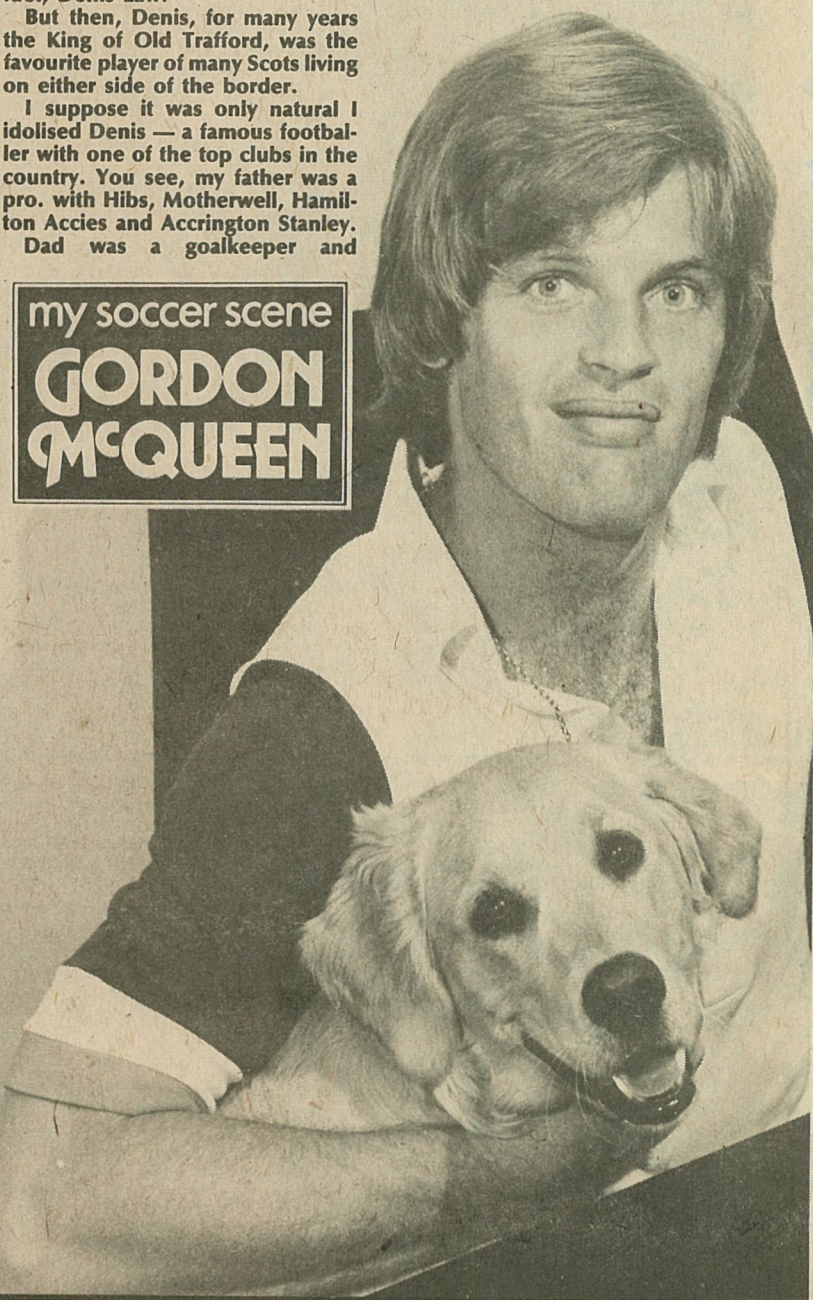
Because there were no soccer
clubs in Kilbirnie I did not play
organised football until I was 16
when I joined Largs Thistle as a
semi-professional.

Semi-pro? That's a laugh. We only
trained one night a week and
received £1 appearance money plus
another five bob (25 pence nowa-
days) if the team won!

I began my soccer career as an

my soccer scene

**GORDON
MCQUEEN**



outside-left (are you listening Gordon Hill?). It wasn't until I started growing fast that one of the club's scouts, a Mr. John Henry, suggested I move back to centre-half.

And it was as a raw, young centre-half with Largs I received an offer to join Liverpool.

I had been a guest at Anfield for two weeks and asked to sign on as an apprentice by their then-manager Bill Shankly.

Bill was tremendous. He made me feel as though I was the best thing to come out of Scotland since Shortbread biscuits, or Aberdeen kippers.

But Anfield was too far from home and the competition looked too great for a young lad from Kilbirnie.

After leaving Liverpool I spent a further two weeks training with Rangers at Ibrox and played a trial match for them.

I don't know if they wanted me or not. No one seemed particularly interested enough to tell me. In the time I was at Ibrox I never once spoke to their manager Willie Wad-

stoke up the furnaces. At least it kept me in good shape for football.

The only job I took a serious interest in was at Chryslers, where I studied to become an engineer.

But I soon forgot all about Chryslers when I was busy establishing myself as the number one number five at St. Mirren, determined to make the necessary progress which would attract the attention of the bigger clubs.

Apart from Manchester United I had a hankering for Leeds at the time because of their Scottish connection. Practically half the side came from North of the border, including their captain, Billy Bremner.

You can imagine how I felt, then, when a Leeds scout, John Barr, who lived close to the St. Mirren ground, called me aside one afternoon after training and said Don Revie had briefed him to search for a young centre-half as a replacement for Jackie Charlton . . . and that he was recommending me!

Mr. Revie travelled to Love Street, watched me play a couple of times . . . and then returned to Leeds



Gordon in action for Leeds against Manchester United last season. He returns to his old club with United next week . . . and expects a hostile reception from the fans.

Howe to join Arsenal and sold big Joe Jordan to Manchester United.

To me there seemed little future for a club prepared to release one of the top coaches in the game and certainly one of the best forwards in the First Division.

I decided the time had come to part company . . . but that's another story.

In two week's time I'll tell you why I joined Manchester United. It certainly wasn't just because my great pal Joe Jordan had gone to Old Trafford.

At the moment all my thoughts are concentrated on the start of the new term.

Pre-season at Old Trafford would have killed a horse and I'm pleased to report the knee I injured crashing into a goal post in the British Championship match against Wales at Hampden has been tested to the full.

We've had a pretty hectic build-up with games in West Germany and Denmark, apart from United's Centenary match against Real Madrid at Old Trafford.

Now I'm anxious to get back into

'BILL SHANKLY WANTED ME AT LIVERPOOL'

dell. The whole place was cold and inhospitable.

I couldn't get out of Ibrox quick enough.

So I went home and back to Largs . . . but not for long. A scout from St. Mirren spotted me, not playing for Thistle, but in a local park having a kick-about with some mates.

The scout, I've forgotten his name, invited me along to Love Street for a trial.

I eventually signed for The Buddies, despite a call from Bill Shankly to return to Anfield.

Apart from playing for Largs and then St. Mirren, I had a variety of jobs after leaving school.

First I made fishing nets for deep-sea trawlers, and then goal-nets for a sports goods firm.

Next, I took a job in a dye factory before accepting a very hot position in a steel works . . . I helped to

totally unimpressed.

But John Barr stuck his neck out and practically begged Don Revie to sign me.

The man who had made Leeds famous asked St. Mirren how much they wanted . . . and quickly lost interest again when they told him £70,000.

Eight months later, in September, 1972, Don made a second approach offered £35,000 and this time the club accepted.

Mr. Revie told me he didn't expect me to take over as a first

team regular for a couple of years — but I made my English League debut against Derby County at the Baseball Ground six months later, in the number 11 shirt, my old Largs position.

I made six League appearances that 1972-73 season, establishing myself the following term after Jackie Charlton had moved to Middlesbrough as manager.

I had several happy years at Elland Road, during which time I married a local girl, Yvonne.

Under The Don life was great. When he left to take over as England boss in the summer of 1974 things at the club never seemed the same.

Soon after Jimmy Armfield succeeded Brian Clough I became unsettled. Leeds allowed Don

the action which begins at home to Birmingham City this Saturday (August 19th).

Last season I'd have said there was little danger in meeting Birmingham at Old Trafford — under new manager Jim Smith I'm not so sure. They ended last term in fine style.

With new signings Stewart Barrowclough, Don Givens, Alan Ainscow and young 'keeper Neil Freeman from Southend and Trevor Francis, when he gets back from the States, Blues could well emerge as a force to be treated with respect this term.

Next Wednesday (August 23rd) United travel to Leeds.

Obviously I'd rather have waited until later in the season before facing my old team-mates.

When I left Elland Road last February the fans were very bitter towards me, so big Joe and I expect a hostile reception.

There's no love lost between the two clubs, either and matches are usually fought with a keener edge than most.

Elland Road is never an easy venue for opponents. I'll be happy if United manage a draw.

I'll also be delighted if you join me again in two week's time. I hope you enjoyed my SHOOT debut as much as I have.

Left: Gordon signs for SHOOT . . . with a little help from his Golden Retriever, Ben. Below: Sad moment for our new star-writer and Scotland . . . after crashing into a goal post at Hampden.



Lyndon McQueen

THEN

Shunned By Some Team-mates

NOW

The Heart Of Hamburger SV

WHATEVER has happened to Keegan in the past year, one thing seems certain ... 1978/79 will be very different for him. The Bundesliga kicked-off on August 12th and HSV are keen to wipe out the memory of a disappointing campaign last time round.

It is true to say Keegan's first year abroad could have been better for his club, although, of course, you can't lay the blame on Kevin. He joined HSV for half a million pounds ... a team that had just won the European Cup-Winners' Cup.

HSV finished 1977/78 in tenth place and were knocked out of the European Cup-Winners' Cup early on by Anderlecht, the side they'd beaten in Amsterdam to take the trophy a few months previously.

Keegan didn't score as regularly as he had done in England, but his new team-mates did not readily accept him.

Most of the time, the England international was named HSV's best player and each Saturday opposing coaches would ask themselves: "Who's going to mark Keegan today?"

Keegan's team-mates did not respond to his efforts and there were many internal problems.

Then, in February, former West German international midfielder Gunter Netzer was appointed general-manager of HSV.

His first words were: "I'll see to the Keegan problem right away." Since Netzer's arrival, HSV have

been a much happier club and Keegan has freely admitted he is far more content now.

"I want my first baby to be born in Hamburg," he announced — and looking at his wife, Jean, it was obvious he was telling the truth.

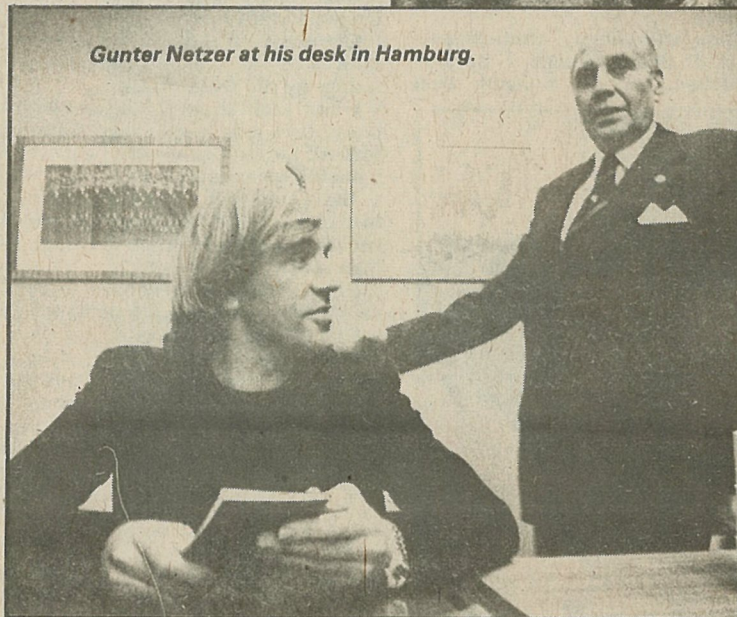
Netzer, a world-class player at his peak, knows all about the sort of troubles that had arisen at HSV.

KEVIN KEEGAN has just started his second season in West Germany with Hamburger SV. It's been a controversial, although personally successful, year for the 26-year-old England star. Here, West German sportswriter **HANS-JURGEN QUAST** surveys the former Liverpool star's life, on and off the field.



Kevin shows the style that has made him such a big hit with the fans.

Gunter Netzer at his desk in Hamburg.



He also realised the value of his top star.

"Everyone must know Kevin is the heart of our team," he said. "Everything will be built around him."

If some of Keegan's team-mates were cold towards him at first, the fans have been behind him since his arrival.

He said: "If I had one Deutschmark for every autograph I sign, I could quit football and still have a fortune!"

Keegan is very close to the supporters and I have seen him surrounded by hundreds of youngsters patiently writing his name on just about anything.

His salary with HSV is around £100,000 per year; it could be more, though, but he refuses to

lend his name to advertising.

Upon arriving in Germany, a company hoped to sell a tee-shirt with Kevin's face on the front. When shown the first sample, Keegan immediately halted production.

"When someone spends his money on a Keegan tee-shirt, he must get the best quality. The guy on this shirt is not me," he said. Another step up the popularity ladder ...

Recently, *Kicker* magazine rated Keegan as world-class, a rating they did not give to a single German player — praise indeed.

Everything looked set for a great season, with Netzer's calming influence behind the scenes helping morale in the dressing-room.

Yet a few weeks ago the club

Branco Zebec, HSV's controversial new team-boss.



engaged a team-boss called Branco Zebec, a Yugoslavian who was previously coach of Bayern Munich, Stuttgart and Eintracht Braunschweig.

Zebec is a man who rarely smiles. His soccer philosophy: "All players are equal." And a team without stars is his aim.

He said: "Kevin Keegan is the perfect professional. However, he is just one of 21 players I work with."

Keegan never really wanted to be a star and certainly doesn't act like one... unlike some players.

"I simply try to do my best and I'm happy when people enjoy what I do," is how Kevin sums up his approach to the game.

A lot of people enjoy what Kevin does — perhaps too many for HSV's liking. There have been offers from the Cosmos and, more recently, Barcelona. The Spanish outfit offered Keegan double his German salary... and that sort of money would make ANY player think twice.

Netzer is disturbed by this situation, to say the least. "I want to make it quite clear Kevin is not for

sale. Not this year nor the next. He has two more seasons of his contract to run and as far as I'm concerned he'll stay with HSV."

Hamburger SV aren't in Europe this season, so they can direct all their efforts towards winning the Bundesliga title, having already been eliminated from the Cup. Keegan has been used to success with Liverpool — and he's hungry for more.



Manny Kaltz (left) of HSV in action against Schalke 04.

FREE — WITH NEXT WEEK'S SHOOT

TEAM-TABS FOR THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE AND SCOTTISH LEAGUE SECOND DIVISIONS for the SHOOT League Ladders

And there's another exciting programme in this superb 56-page issue:

Colour: On the cover, match-action from Aston Villa v Derby County + Bob Latchford (Everton) + Focus on Neil McNab of Spurs + John Wile (West Bromwich Albion) + Celtic team group.

Features: Four players turn 'manager' and each select a representative team from the rest of the League + Why Rivelino has left Brazil + The Home International managers Ron Greenwood (England), Ally MacLeod (Scotland), Danny Blanchflower (N. Ireland) and Mike Smith (Wales) on what they'll be looking for in their players, regular and prospective, when watching League matches + Big Match Crosstalk between an Everton player and one from Arsenal + The 'Old Firm' ex-players now managing clubs North of the border + Manager Bob Stokoe on his plans for a brighter Blackpool + many other topical interviews with star players and all the usual items, such as 'News Desk', 'World Wide', 'Tartan Talk' and 'You are the Ref'.

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LEICESTER Ground: Filbert Street, Leicester	BURNLEY Ground: Turf Moor, Burnley	BRECHIN C. Ground: Glebe Park, Brechin	ALL Ground: Recreation, All
BRIGHTON Ground: Goldstone Ground, Hove	BRISTOL R. Ground: Eastville Stadium, Bristol S.	COWDENBEATH Ground: Central Park, Cowdenbeath	DUNFERMLINE Ground: East Fife, Dunfermline
CARDIFF Ground: Ninian Park, Cardiff	CHARLTON Ground: The Valley, London S.E.7	E. STIRLING Ground: Firs Park, Falkirk	FA Ground: B.
CRYSTAL P. Ground: Selhurst Park, London S.E.25	FULHAM Ground: Craven Cottage, London S.W.6	FORFAR Ground: Station Park, Forfar	MEAL Ground: Me.
		QUEEN'S PARK Ground: Hampden Park, Glasgow	E

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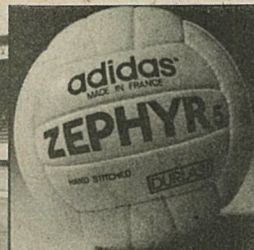
Nottingham Forest



Ipswich



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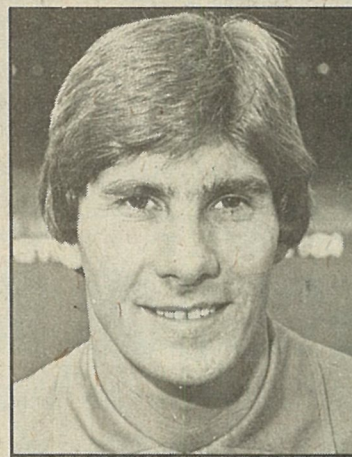
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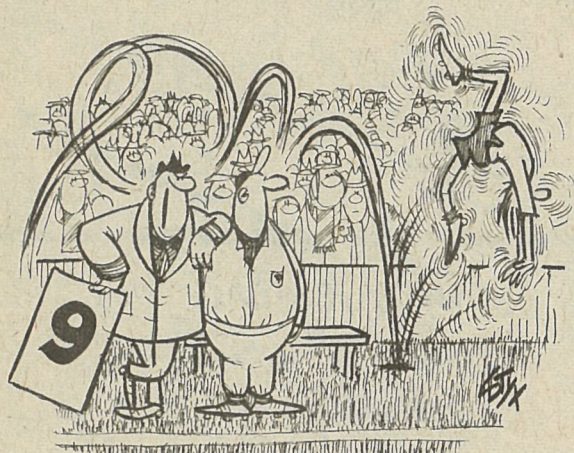
Middlesbrough's £110,000 goalkeeper from Kilmarnock JIM STEWART kicks-off the new season by selecting the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



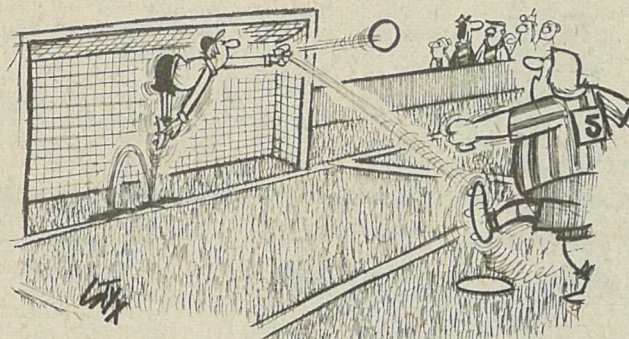
"Being a target man is tough enough, boss, without making me advertise the fact"



"Believe it or not he was one of the youngest managers in football when he took over this lot at the start of last season"

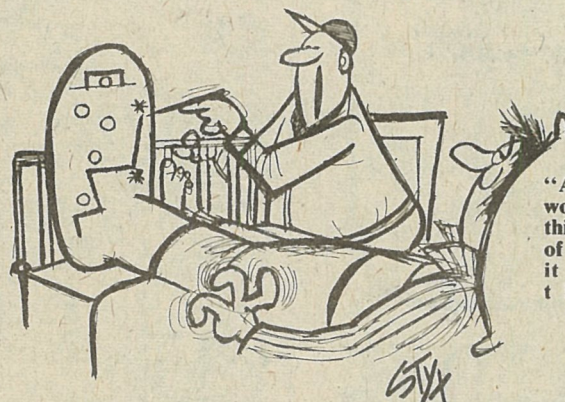
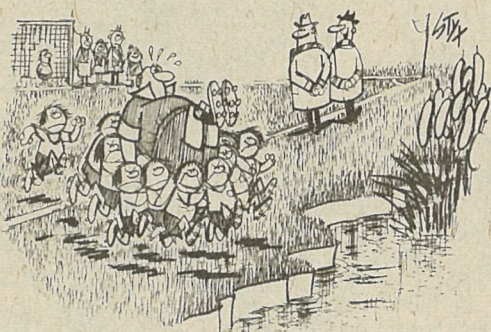


"Can't he do a little jog trot when he wants to warm up?"



"I wish he'd make a straightforward save instead of all these fancy dives"

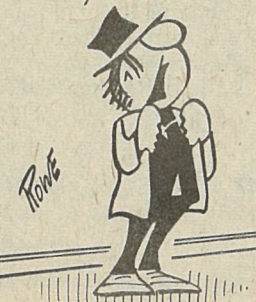
"One thing about our boys, head-master — they never argue with the ref"



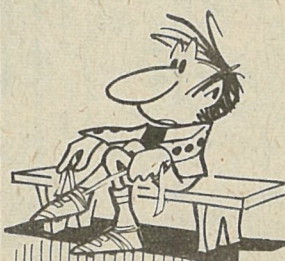
"And if you had worked the ball into this position, instead of attempting to run it straight through their two backs..."

NOBBY

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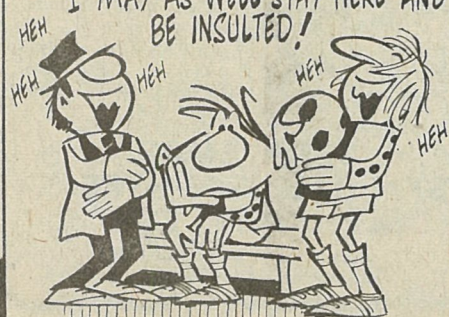
BUT THERE WAS A LAST-MINUTE HITCH



WHY DIDN'T YOU HAVE CHANGE FOR A QUID?



WHO WANTS A TRANSFER ANYWAY... I MAY AS WELL STAY HERE AND BE INSULTED!



IAN McNEIL got no chance to take a proper holiday this summer. He was too busy helping Wigan Athletic prepare for their first season in the Football League.

Wigan achieved a lifetime ambition in June, when they were voted into the Fourth Division at the expense of Southport.

And the Springfield Park club are determined to start their new life with a bang. As soon as they were elected they started to revolution-

we intend to leave a lasting impression on them. We want them to go away saying 'what a fantastic set-up Wigan have. Why were they not elected years ago'.

"We have waited a long time for this chance. Now we are in, we intend to show what a progressive, ambitious club we are.

"The public have certainly responded to our new status. We have taken over £10,000 in season ticket sales and £15,000 in adver-

the man that replaced him invited me to come back and manage the club again.

"In the meantime Mr Horrocks came back as chairman. You could be forgiven for thinking that has caused a tricky situation — but you would be wrong. We are getting along fine now."

McNeil has always wanted to

manage a League club and feels he could do better than to lead Wigan into their new venture.

"This club is geared for success and I could not ask for a better place to start my career as boss of a Fourth Division club. Given our share of the breaks I'm sure we'll give a good account of ourselves."

WIGAN REVOLUTION

SHOOT visits the League's newest club

ise the organisation of the club.

They immediately switched from a part-time to full-time set-up. It had to be done quickly — and it was. All the players except one, Mick Worswick, agreed to give up their regular jobs to play full-time football.

"It meant a lot of financial sacrifice for them. But they were happy to do it because they want the club to be a success in the League," says McNeil.

"Getting into the League has been an obsession with this club for many years. Now we have achieved it we intend to make a big impression.

"We have a ground better than most at this level. It can hold 35,000 now and there is a lot of room and scope for expansion.

"When visiting clubs come here

tising. In addition we have a thriving promotions and pools scheme that raises a lot of money for us.

"In view of all this it is a wonder we are all highly excited about the future?"

McNeil, a 45-year-old Scot who played for Aberdeen, Leicester, Brighton and Southend, is in his second spell as manager of Wigan.

The first one ended under a cloud when he was sacked by present chairman Arthur Horrocks.

"We had a public disagreement over the players I had signed. The chairman thought they were not good enough to win the Northern Premier League for Wigan — I insisted they were," said McNeil.

"The result of our quarrel was that I finished up out of a job.

"Then Mr. Horrocks resigned from the chair, and the Board, and

Ian
McNeil



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LIVERPOOL Football Association Cup Winners 1974
LIVERPOOL The Kop
LIVERPOOL Football League Champions 1976
LIVERPOOL Union European Football Association Cup Winners 1976
LIVERPOOL Football League Champions 1977
LIVERPOOL European Champions Cup 1978
MANCHESTER UNITED Red Devil Club Crest
MANCHESTER UNITED Football Association Cup Winners 1977
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SUNDERLAND Football Association Cup Winners 1973
TOTTENHAM Union European Football Association Cup Winners 1972
TOTTENHAM Club Crest
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THE BIG KICK-OFF THEN and NOW

MORTENSEN: The start of a new season was an exciting and exhilarating time for me. There was so much to look forward to and anticipate, and regardless of where Blackpool had finished in the previous term, the feeling was we would be strong Championship contenders in the months ahead.

ROWELL: This season will be only the second in which I have started out as a first team player. But I'm very conscious of the fact 1978-79 is the period when Sunderland hope to regain their First Division status, so this new term has a challenge about it which gives the opening games a special atmosphere.

MORTENSEN: One special feature of a new season in my day, was the opportunity it gave the players to lose a few pounds in weight. Invariably, in spite of pre-season training, many of us still had a little accumulated weight after at least two months of inactivity during the summer months — and the first two or three matches helped us to shed the extra poundage.

ROWELL: Well, Stan, a weight problem is something rare in modern soccer. Summer tours and close-season work-outs guarantee that when players report back to their clubs in July they are very close to peak fitness.

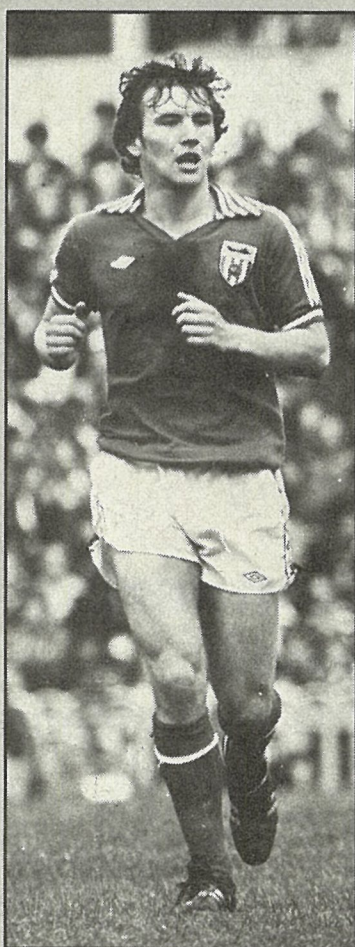
MORTENSEN: Yes, Gary, I agree teams in the Seventies are more physically tuned-up than we were at the beginning of a new term. Indeed, I believe there is too much emphasis placed on endurance in modern sides, and not enough time spent on developing skills — and after our lay-off in the summer, we couldn't wait to show off our skill with the ball in the new season.

ROWELL: I'm hoping Sunderland will be able to blend work-rate and skill in their early games. This is what we aim at in our preparation, because the modern feeling is there is not much point in players having skill if they also lack the stamina and fitness to get the best results from it.

MORTENSEN: I see your point. But players such as Stan Matthews and Tom Finney didn't need to chase around non-stop for 90 minutes to be effective. And after being deprived of football for three months, the fans really enjoyed a display of soccer skills in August. To me, one of the things I looked forward to most in a new season was the chance to please our supporters.

CROSS TALK

What was it like starting a new season two decades ago compared with the super Seventies? To find out we asked **STAN MORTENSEN**, famous Blackpool and England star of the late Forties and early Fifties, to discuss the differences with Sunderland's highly-promising youngster **GARY ROWELL**.



'Today we report back close to peak fitness'
GARY ROWELL

Stan Mortensen scores Blackpool's second goal against Bolton in the 1953 F.A. Cup Final.



'Players were often overweight'
STAN MORTENSEN

ROWELL: Yes, the fans are tremendously important, Stan, and at Sunderland I'll be delighted if we can earn their appreciation in the first few weeks of the term. If we can make our supporters pleased with us in August and September it means the team is making the good beginning to the season so important to us.

MORTENSEN: When Big Jock Dodds was with Blackpool, the crowd liked a "one-two" that he and I used to do. Jock would be tight-marked, with a couple of defenders on top of him, and I would slip him a quick pass — and in spite of the opposing defenders, Jock would immediately flick me a return as I raced through. I think that anticipating moves which I would be attempting with my team-mates was something that gave me great pleasure at the beginning of a season.

ROWELL: As a midfield man, scoring goals is not a top priority of my game. But in the new season I'm

looking ahead to getting a goal or two, though I never set myself a target in this respect. If I do find the net, I consider it a special bonus.

MORTENSEN: Goals are always nice to get, Gary, though like yourself I never set myself any target. Instead, I approached a new season with the thought I would enjoy every match, and would like nothing better than playing three or four games a week.

ROWELL: I feel exactly the same way, Stan. In the early part of 78-79, I would prefer to be turning out at least twice a week regularly. From an enjoyment point of view this is much better than training, and I believe taking part in an actual match is the best way to keep fit.

MORTENSEN: Well, unlike yourself, I will not be actually playing this season — but I'll be enjoying it, and wondering what us old timers would have accomplished if we had had the benefits of modern training.

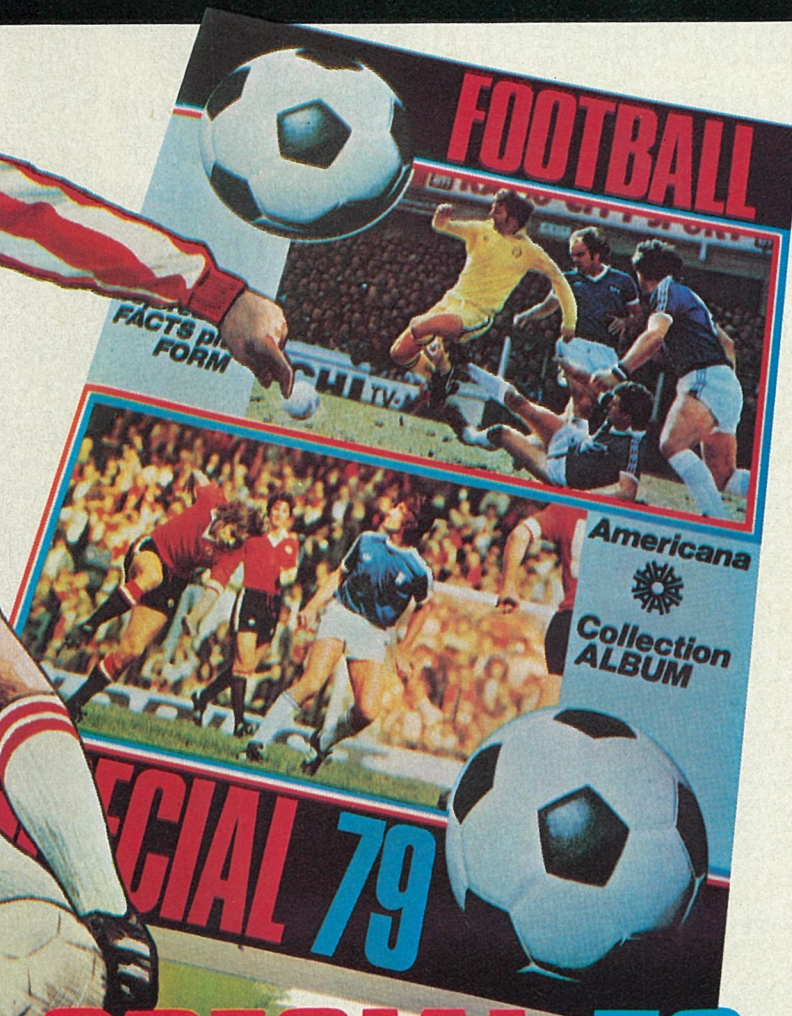
ROWELL: If only we could make that possible. With you in the side no one could stop Sunderland winning promotion.

MORTENSEN: It's a nice thought, Gary. Let's try and meet again in 2000 towards the end of the season and talk some more.

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STEVE BUCKLEY

Derby County

FULL NAME: Steven Buckley
BIRTHPLACE: Brinsley, Notts.
BIRTHDATE: 16th October, 1953
HEIGHT: 5ft 9½ins.
WEIGHT: 11st 11lbs.
PREVIOUS CLUB: Luton
MARRIED: No
CAR: Saab
FAVOURITE PLAYER: My brother Alan who is at Walsall
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Luton
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Not saying!
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Debut for Luton at Leicester City
BIGGEST THRILL: Signing for Derby County
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Being relegated with Luton
BEST COUNTRY VISITED: America
FAVOURITE FOOD: Steak
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Motorbikes
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Smoking
FAVOURITE T.V. SHOW: Match of the Day
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Showaddywaddy
FAVOURITE ACTORS/ACTRESS: Charles Bronson, Clint Eastwood and Barbra Streisand
BEST FRIEND: A few!
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Father, Ken Gutteridge (Brighton) and many others
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Being injured and losing
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: None
PERSONAL AMBITION: To be healthy and happy
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To play for England
IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE? Looking for a job
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Barry Sheene, the motorcycling ace

Steven Buckley

SHOOT!

There's a good 'team' behind the team at PORT VALE

WHEN Dennis Butler (below) took over the managerial hot seat at relegated Port Vale, his first steps along the road to promotion were to put his house in order and to get the Burslem club working properly.

"I've got the staff right," says the ambitious 34-year-old. "Graham Hawkins, who was here last year as youth team coach, has moved up to first team coach, and I've brought in Alan Bloor from Stoke to develop the youth team."

"There's a big pool of players at Vale and we've simply got to wait and see if they're capable of getting us back into the Third Division at the first attempt."

"I'd love to get hold of a midfielder who can control and make things happen at free-kicks and corners. Unfortunately that class of player is in short supply."

"But I've got a great set of lads. At the moment it's a matter of building the right spirit within the club and, more than ever, teamwork."

"I've played in a promotion side and I've looked at people who have accomplished the job, such as Graham Taylor at Lincoln and Watford. He believes the same as I do; you need team spirit with the emphasis fixed firmly on attack."

"In the Fourth Division you must have lads who still want to play football as though their lives depended on it. It's the easiest thing in the world to be motivated in front of 50,000 people in the First Division, but it's not so easy when you're travelling to some places in the Fourth."

"I've got a contract for two years and I've already bought a couple of players: right-back Neil Wilkinson

from Blackburn and Bernie Wright, the big centre-forward from Bradford City."

Has Dennis any more money to spend?

"The board have agreed to do everything in their power to help me if and when I need to buy. But I don't want to go after new players for the sake of it. If someone I need comes along at the right time, then hopefully, I'll snap him up."

"I want to surround myself with people who will give everything for Port Vale. There's got to be a movement in and out, but I'll be trying always to keep the players who will do a good job for this club."

Prestbury-born Dennis, once a left-winger, began his playing career at 15 when he joined the groundstaff of Bolton Wanderers and made his First Division debut in 1963 against Aston Villa away from home. "We lost 5-0 and Derek Dougan scored a hat-trick," he recalls.

After nine years Dennis left for Rochdale and sadly, at the age of 27, had his career cut short through injury.

Four years ago he teamed up with Bobby Smith at Bury and in November, 1977, moved with him to Port Vale. He took over when Smith left to manage Swindon at the end of last season.

Dennis' main objective for 1978-79 is obviously promotion.

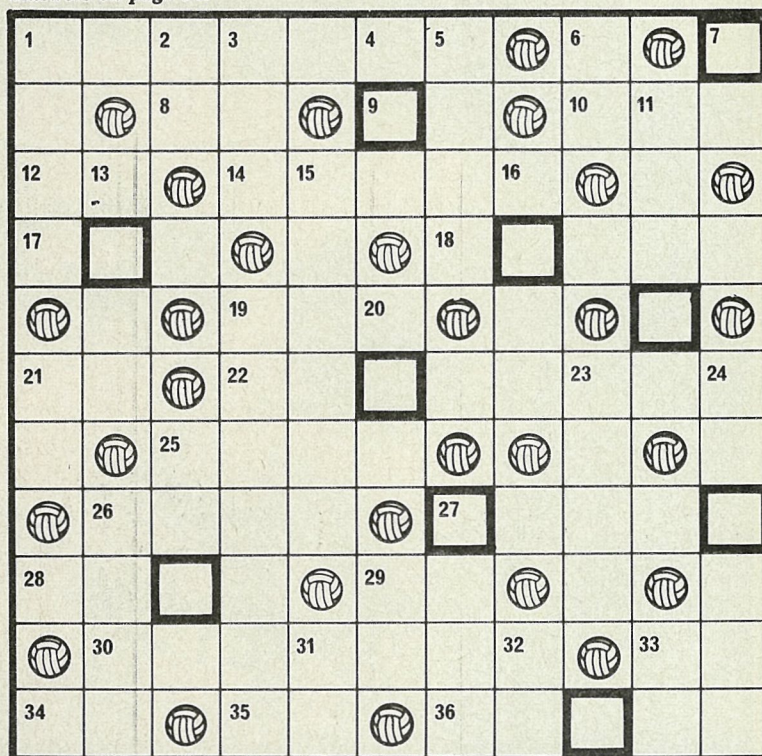
"Oh, yes. I desperately want to be successful."

"I don't want to talk about consolidation or anything like that. I want to make it quite clear from the outset if there's a chance of going up then we're going to take it."



Go for the Double

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of a Queens Park Rangers full-back. Answers on page 54.



ACROSS:

- (1) They won the F.A. Cup in 1974/5. (4 & 3)
- (8) John Ri-s-n of Bolton Wanderers.
- (9) --ldstone Ground, Brighton & Hove Albion.
- (10) A player would have to diet if he became thus.
- (12) Ian-r-nnan of Burnley.
- (14) Clive --, Ipswich Town winger.
- (17) Terry --, League top scorer 1960/61. (Peterborough, 52 goals).
- (18) ---t-ill- Stadium (Bristol Rovers). Roof part from the missing letters.
- (19) You can usually do this in the stand, surprisingly!
- (21) Cyrille Reg-- of West Bromwich Albion.
- (22) Steve --, Liverpool striker.
- (25) Number of goals Rangers scored in the 1976/77 Scottish Cup Final (v. Celtic).
- (26) ---por- County from Somerset Park.
- (27) J-e J---a- (Manchester United). Giver from the omissions.
- (28) Stuart --, Middlesbrough defender.
- (29) R-ke- Park, Sunderland.
- (30) Derek --, W.B.A. full-back.
- (33) He-r-s. Scots Premier Division club.
- (34) Geoff --rrick of Bristol City.
- (35) Pre-t-n Park, home of Tranmere Rovers.
- (36) Mickey --, Everton new signing.

DOWN:

- (1) Dave --, Leicester City defender.
- (2) -- James' Park, Newcastle United's ground.
- (3) Lu-on T--n.
- (4) B--he-d Park, Dumbarton. Reverse the missing letters.
- (5) Bl-o-fi-l- Road (Blackpool). Fashion from the omissions.
- (6) Dusseld-r-, West German League club.
- (7) Tom R--chie of Bristol City.
- (11) Wembley Stadium is one.
- (13) Plural of the tree in Reading's ground!
- (15) The team from Brisbane Road.
- (16) Scarf or ribbon worn over one shoulder or around the waist.
- (19) -e-d--ba-k T-i-tle (Scots Div. II). Male exhibitor from the omissions.
- (20) -annad-c- Park, Dundee United.
- (21) S--cil Bank, Lincoln City's ground.
- (23) One side of the playing area, for instance.
- (24) Terry --, Coventry City mid-field player.
- (25) Ty--c-s-le Park; Ground of clue 33 Across.
- (26) Graem- --u-ess (Liverpool). The omissions reversed.
- (27) Match result where neither side has won.
- (29) An exclamation needed to complete Derek J--nstone of Rangers.
- (31) S-amf-rd Bridge, Chelsea.
- (32) Paul --riner of Ipswich.
- (33) Gordon B-nk-, "Footballer of the Year", 1971/72.

Tartan Talk DEREK JOHNSTONE

JUST call me John Greig's stand-in! As you all probably know I am the new Rangers skipper with my old mate taking over as Ibrox boss.

It was a great honour to take over from Mr. Greig — no one calls him John any more — and I was delighted with the news I'll be taking over his Tartan Talk column in SHOOT, which has always been one of my favourite magazines.

Right, where do I start? I would like to point out from the beginning if I can be half as successful as John Greig I will be totally overwhelmed. The man is really a legend in the game and I have yet to meet any one who does not respect him.

Recently, though, I captained Rangers to the only domestic honour John Greig never had the privilege of getting his hands on. It was the Tennent-Caledonian Cup and it was the third time we have reached the Final, but the first time we have found success.

Two seasons ago we lost to Southampton, and last year two goals from Laurie Cunningham gave West Brom a 2-0 victory over us.

This time we started the tournament in a very determined fashion

The new captain of Glasgow Rangers



and Mr. Greig told us we just had to win this trophy and to win it by playing open and entertaining soccer. I think we carried out his orders. I hope so anyway!

We played Hearts in the opening game and were 1-0 down at the interval, but we stepped up the pace in the second-half and scored three well designed goals.

We knew then we would be meeting Southampton in the Final the following day. They had drawn 1-1 with West Brom, but went through on penalty-kicks. We were all looking forward to a third meeting in two years against Lawrie



Alex Forsyth has joined the Scottish Champions on a year's loan from Manchester United.

'We demoralised Southampton'

Willie Johnston collects the Tennent-Caledonian Cup after West Brom had beaten Rangers 2-0 in last year's Final at Ibrox.



McMenemy's newly-promoted side.

Before that game started, Hearts beat West Brom 2-0 in the third-place game and we knew we just had to make it a Scottish double.

Once the game started there could be no doubt who was going to be the winners.

I think it is fair to say we demoralised Southampton in a pulsating first-half. We were 3-0 ahead at one stage before Ted MacDougall pinched one back for Saints.

However, our victory was sealed after the interval when Alex MacDonald, who also won the "Man of the Tournament" award, hit our fourth goal.

It was great to see the first man to congratulate John Greig on his first Cup victory as a manager was none other than his opposite number Lawrie McMenemy. It was a gesture we all appreciated.

Anyway, we have started this season as we ended the last by winning a trophy and that is the form we intend to maintain throughout the 1978-79 campaign.

I would also like to take this opportunity of welcoming former Partick Thistle left-back Alex Forsyth, of Manchester United, to Rangers. The player is on a year's loan, but already he has opened his scoring account for Rangers with a superb effort against Southampton.

That's all for this week, join me again in a fortnight and I will tell you about the time I could have joined Celtic!

**TARTAN TALK FROM
CELTIC'S DANNY
McGRAIN NEXT WEEK**

THE new season couldn't come quickly enough for Martin Chivers, Mickey Walsh, Derek Hales and Kevin Beattie.

The first three — among the most lethal strikers in the business — will be kicking off with new clubs. And Beattie hopes his cruel run of luck with injuries is over and looks forward to a full season with the F.A. Cup holders.

A few eyebrows were raised when Norwich boss John Bond paid out £20,000 to bring Chivers back from a two year exile in Switzerland.

After all, claimed the cynics, he is now 33 and had not exactly set the game alight during his last few years in England.

But Bond knew what Chivers could do and he had spent a complete year trying to sign him.

"That in itself was flattering," said Chivers — who looked in superb shape when he met John Bond in a London hotel to agree the deal.

"It's nice to know someone is keen to sign you after you have been out of the limelight for a while. I've been very impressed with what I've seen of John. He treats you fair and square and you can't ask for more than that.

"I must confess I thought my days of playing in the First Division were over when Tottenham sold me to Servette of Geneva two

Martin Chivers

— The chance to pick up his career at the top with Norwich.

years ago.

"It was always in my mind to come back home and finish my career. But I thought I would have to do it in the lower Divisions.

"Norwich have given me the chance to pick up my career at the top and I intend to repay them for the faith they have shown in me."

Chivers — already excitedly getting ready for the new season — got another boost with the news that Norwich kick-off with a home match against Southampton, the club where he began his career.

"I could hardly believe it when I heard that," bubbled Chivers — who hails from Southampton.

"Back in the First Division and starting with a game against my home town team — it's like a fairy tale."

And if Chivers' form in pre-season training and friendlies is anything to go by the story will have a happy ending for Norwich.

John Bond already feels he has pulled off the scoop of the season in getting the big man at such a bargain price.

Other players in the side — particularly England Under-21 striker Kevin Reeves — look like benefiting from Chivers' presence. So it could be an interesting year at Carrow Road.

Four players with DIFFERENT AIMS FOR 1978-79



in the game," said Walsh.

"I've played at Goodison only once — in a Central League match. But I've watched a few big games at the ground and was really taken in with the atmosphere there.

"Everything about the move is new to me. I've never played in the First Division and never played in Europe. But I believe I have the ability to make a go of it and prove I'm worthy of a place in the toughest League in the world — and Everton must think the same, otherwise they would not have paid all that money for me.

"I've never looked forward to

Mickey Walsh

— Aiming to prove he's worthy of a first team place at Everton.

Everton succeeded where so many others had failed — in getting Blackpool to part with Republic of Ireland striker star Mickey Walsh.

It cost them £325,000 to get him. But if Walsh continues the goal scoring exploits that have made him one of the game's most wanted men it will be money well spent.

The Goodison Park club have never been afraid to splash the cash in a bid to buy success. Walsh could be just the man to help them clinch the First Division title.

He scored over 70 goals in the last four seasons with Blackpool and will form a formidable striking partnership with burly Bob Latchford.

Walsh, 23, has been hankering for a move from Blackpool for some time. They always turned down his transfer requests — but now they have dropped into the Third Division the Seaside had to be realistic and accept they could no longer hang on to their prize asset.

"The prospect of playing for Everton excites me tremendously. They are one of the greatest clubs

the start of a season so much. It promises to be tremendous," says Walsh who comes from the Lancashire town of Chorley.

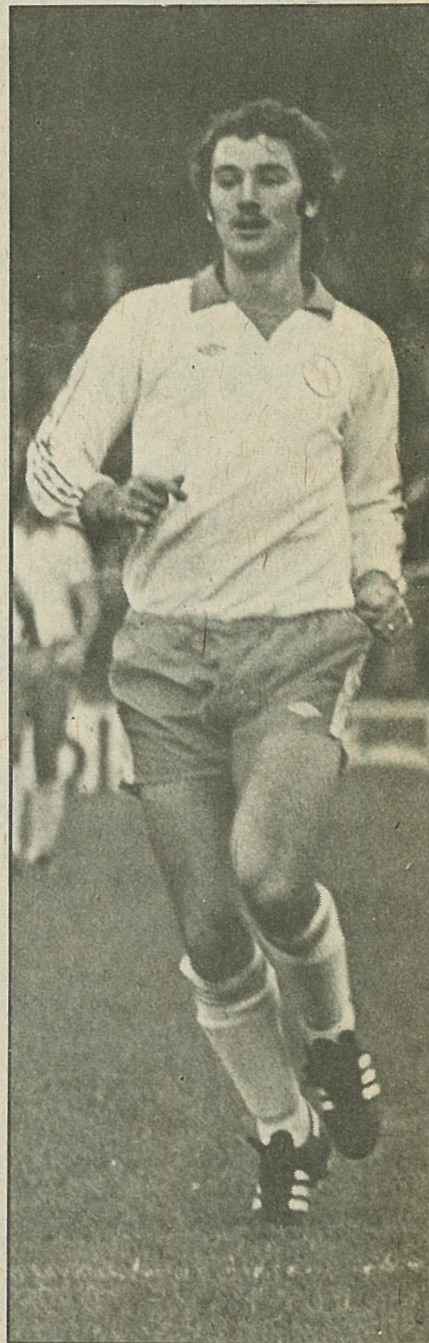
That's the same place as Ipswich striker Paul Mariner. In fact Walsh and Mariner played in the same amateur side there until they went their different ways.

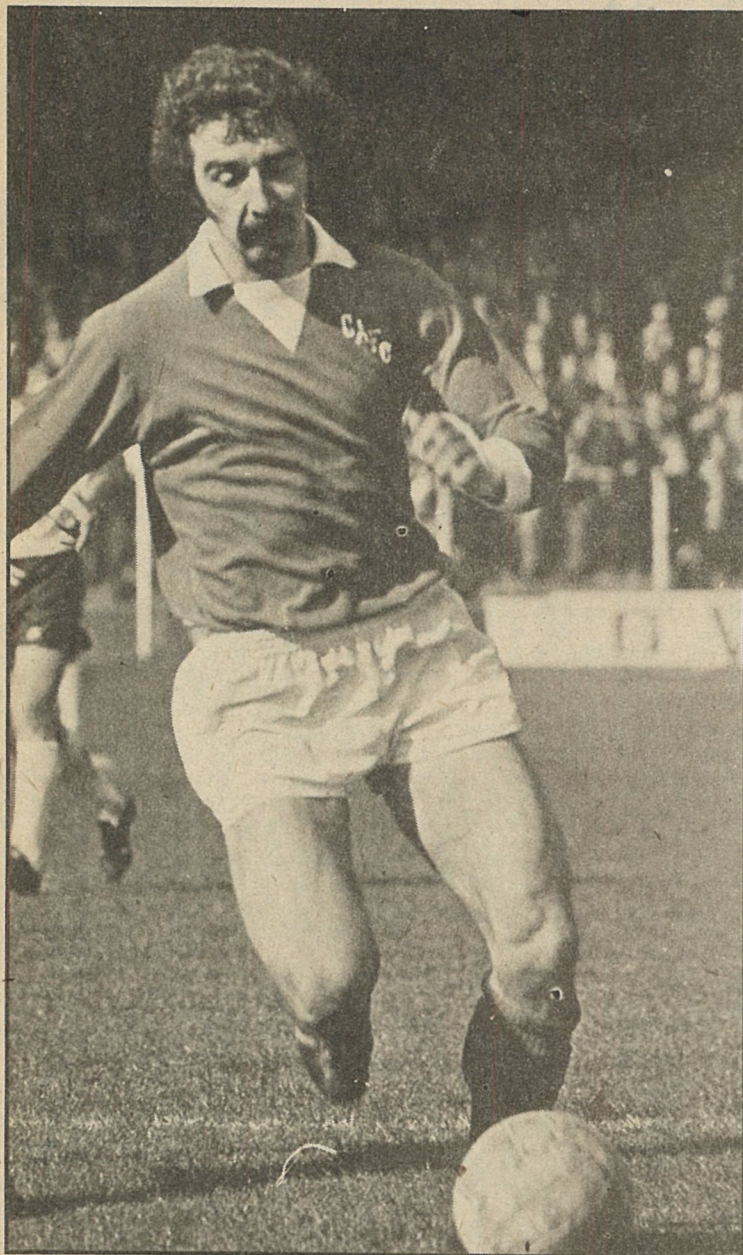
"It will be nice to play against Paul in the First Division — and show him what goalscoring is really all about," joked Walsh.

The swashbuckling Derek Hales ended the most turbulent 18 months of his life when he rejoined Charlton last month for £75,000.

The goals he plundered in a golden spell at The Valley made him a target for all the top clubs. And Derby won the race for his signature by forking out £330,000 for him.

Hales found it difficult to settle in his new surroundings, the goal flew dried up and when Tommy Docherty arrived at the Baseball





Derek Hales

—Will his return to the Valley boost Charlton's promotion challenge?

Ground he soon made it clear that Hales did not figure in his plans.

Derby were prepared to show a heavy loss on their investment and allowed Hales to move to West Ham for just a third of the money they paid for him — £110,000.

He could hardly be called a failure at Upton Park. But as Hammers dropped into the Second Division they clearly felt they could do without Hales and allowed him to return to Charlton.

"I'm a bit surprised that West Ham let him go — but I'm glad they did. He's a great signing for

us," said Charlton coach Harry Cripps.

"None of us really wanted to see him go in the first place, but these things happen in football.

"Now he's back and we are all delighted about it. He's a real character and a lively sort of bloke to have about the place.

"Derek looks fit and sharp and is sure to provide the thrust and goals to put us up among the Second Division challengers.

"You can discount any suggestions that his return here has caused resentment among the other players. That's complete nonsense — they are all glad to have him back.

"There's no reason on earth why they shouldn't. Derek is a good lad, a hard trainer, works hard and never causes any problems. He's a great asset to any club and his return here has given the season a whole new meaning for us."

While the first three hope to produce goals for their new clubs powerful Kevin Beattie prays the injury bug leaves him alone to enable him to do his usual outstanding job at the heart of the Ipswich defence.

It struck at him cruelly last season, when he had two cartilage operations on his right knee and was restricted to just 15 first team appearances.

The two most important of those were in the F.A. Cup when he bravely played on one leg to help Ipswich overcome West Bromwich Albion in the Semi-Final — then take the trophy by beating Arsenal at Wembley.

Beattie, who had the first of his cartilage operations in September, was in such pain he could never play two games in succession. But Ipswich nursed him to enable him to play a vital part in the greatest success in their history.

Straight after gaining his Cup winners medal Beattie went into hospital for the second operation and he spent the summer battling back to full fitness.

He came out eagerly for the first competitive game of the pre-season — a Willshire Cup clash against neighbours Colchester. And the jinx seemed to have struck

again when he went down after a tackle and was carried off.

But the damage was not as serious as at first thought and the tough Beattie bounced back into full training a couple of days later.

"The knee still swells after a tough work-out on it. But that's because the grounds are as hard as a rock at the moment," he explained.

"Because of the condition of pitches I get more jarring than is good for me. I'm sure once the grounds soften up and there's a bit of give in them I'll be okay.

"If not I'll have to make an application for one of those bionic legs — that should guarantee me a trouble-free season."

Beattie has had more than his share of injury and we hope he now gets the chance for an extended run in the side. Ipswich need him, so do England.

In fact all four have worked hard for what promises to be a fabulous season for them. We at SHOOT wish them all well.



Kevin Beattie

—An extended injury-free run with Ipswich and England?

Scotland's top ten under the microscope...

LAST year before the season started SHOOT took an in-depth look at the Scottish Premier Division. We analysed the strengths and weaknesses of the ten top teams and we predicted Rangers would do well — they won every domestic honour, of course — Aberdeen would have a good run in the Scottish Cup — they reached the Final — and Ayr United and Clydebank would be relegated — which they were.

Now, in this new season, we put the current Premier sides under our microscope and hope we have the same amount of success with our predictions as last season!

RANGERS: New manager John Greig scored a double triumph even before the start of the term when he persuaded both Derek Johnstone and Derek Parlane to withdraw their transfer requests. It looked certain at one stage both players would be going South, but now they have decided to stay at Ibrox and help Rangers to defend the three trophies they won last season as well as trying to bring the European Cup back to Glasgow for the first time since 1967 when great rivals Celtic claimed it. **STRENGTHS:** A lot will obviously depend on where Johnstone plays. He scored 39 goals for the Ibrox side last time out as a striker, but he started this season at centre-half, the position he thinks is his best. Rangers, though, could miss his firepower up-front if he stays in the middle of the defence.

Manager Greig has already said he will strengthen the side and he had big bids for Motherwell's Gregor Stevens and Partick Thistle's Brian Whittaker turned down before the season's kick-off.

Greig is still looking around for new talent and recently added Manchester United's unhappy full-back Alex Forsyth to the squad on a year's loan.

No matter what happens in the transfer market Rangers still look good enough to retain their title although they may slip in the other trophies. Gordon Smith will continue to score goals and Sandy Jardine and Tom Forsyth are two resolute defenders. Bobby Russell, too, should have a good season although he must expect to be heavily marked.

WEAKNESSES: The goalkeeper position is still a problem. That fact was emphasised in the pre-season friendly in the Highlands when little Inverness Caley put three

goals past Peter McCloy. Rangers, admittedly, hit six at the other end! Nevertheless, the defence looks weak in certain positions.



Striker Gordon Smith scores for Rangers against Motherwell last season.

OUTCOME: They could be the most consistent side North of the border which would mean the Premier Championship going to Ibrox for the third time in four years, but in the one-off competitions they could be punished for lapses in concentration.

CELTIC: They, too, have a new manager, of course, in Billy McNeill and the club's former centre-half, like Greig, has made efforts in the transfer market to strengthen the side that flopped so abysmally last season.

So far the club have been out of luck, but McNeill will continue trying. He is looking for class players and will not be pressurised into paying over the odds for anyone.

Celtic's inconsistency last season was appalling and only one Premier side — Dundee United — failed to beat them! In 1967 Dun-

dee United were the ONLY Scottish side to beat the Parkhead team that won everything for which they competed. Changed days indeed!

STRENGTHS: Peter Latchford is one of the best goalkeepers in Scotland and was a worthy winner of the Celtic Player of the Year award last term. If Danny McGrain returns to peak fitness it will be just like the club splashing out something like £½ million in the

transfer market. Alfie Conn and Pat Stanton, too, will be hoping for an injury-free season and other players who will form the backbone of the side will be Roddie MacDonald, Roy Aitken, Tommy Burns and George McCluskey, four very talented youngsters.

WEAKNESSES: The lack of strength-in-depth, which used to be a feature of the Parkhead side. At one stage they were able to field two first class teams loaded with internationals, but that is certainly not the case today. They look weak on the left-hand side of the park and can be exposed there while the midfield never really clicked last season.

The team also struggled for a consistent goalscorer. Several players including Joe Craig, Paul Wilson, Tom McAdam and Johannes Edvaldsson were tried without any great success.

OUTCOME: Unless McNeill is successful with a couple of bids the club does not look strong enough



Goalkeeper Peter Latchford (seen saving from Steve Archibald of Aberdeen) was voted Celtic's Player of the Year.

anything else. They had gone something like 20 games without defeat until they met Rangers in the Cup Final last season and they just didn't rise to the occasion and, in the end, deserved to be beaten at Hampden.

OUTCOME: They could again run Rangers close in the race for the title and it will take a good side to deliver the knock-out blow in the Cup competitions. They could also be set for a good season in Europe. Again, though, it all depends in the players' confidence in their own ability.

DUNDEE UNITED: Will this be the season the Tannadice team finally come good? There is definitely something missing in United's make-up. Like Aberdeen they possess some superb players in Davie Narey, Paul Hegarty, Paul Sturrock and Graeme Payne, but when the crunch comes they are found wanting.

STRENGTHS: They have good young players, but they probably lack leadership on the park. They could probably do with an experienced midfield general to take some of the weight off Payne. Someone such as Hibs' Alex Edwards, who could probably be bought for around the £15,000 mark, would do a great job for the team. Goalkeeper Hamish McAlpine is fairly safe and the defensive duo of Hegarty and Narey is one of the best in the Premier.

WEAKNESSES: Lack of leadership and also the lack of a consistent goalscorer. Since the transfer of Andy Gray to Aston Villa manager Jim McLean has looked far and wide and brought players such as Tom McAdam, now Celtic, John Bourke and Gordon Wallace to Tannadice, but so far without

still escapes the Edinburgh side. There will be a new-look to the middle of the defence with recent signing Rikki Fleming, from Ayr United, teaming up with George Stewart.

WEAKNESSES: They tend to be a bit powder puff away from home and can be over-run. The midfield has hardly been too enterprising in recent seasons which is not the fault of the hard-working Bremner.

OUTCOME: They won't win the title, but they could have a good run in the Scottish Cup. It's doubtful, though, whether or not they will actually win something.

MOTHERWELL: Manager Roger Hynd has been ambitious enough in his bid to try to rebuild the Fir Park side and at one stage before the start of the season it seemed EVERY Scottish player was ready to sign for 'Well!

STRENGTHS: Dave Latchford could be an exceptionally good buy from Birmingham while a central defence of Allan Mackin, from Queen's Park, and Gregor Stevens could prove to be a big stumbling block for opponents. Joe Wark, as usual, will have a consistent season at left-back. Willie Pettigrew will need some support up-front, though.

WEAKNESSES: A lack of strength-in-depth. Apart from Peter Marinello and Pettigrew the side isn't particularly mobile which could cost them.

OUTCOME: They will be stronger than last season, but silverware is likely to escape the Fir Park boardroom yet again.

HEARTS: Newly promoted and looking forward to first class soccer again. Strangely enough, although they finished second to Morton in the First Division a lot of

moves. And, of course, Malcolm Robertson will provide the threat on the left wing.

WEAKNESSES: Manager Ormond will be hoping his side can stay clear of injuries for his side has little reserve power. Younger players such as Lawrence Tierney and Walter Kydd may be asked to do too much in the hectic atmosphere of the Premier. The defence could wilt under the pressure.

OUTCOME: They will have to fight every inch of the way to stay clear of the trapdoor that leads back to the First Division.

PARTICK THISTLE: There is a sign at the Maryhill club's ground that says: 'Firhill For Thrills' and this has certainly been true over the past two years in the Premier when they have taken on and beaten the best on their own pitch. Will this, however, be the year the strain of being a part-time club catches up with them?

STRENGTHS: Alan Rough is one of the best goalkeepers in Scotland despite the criticism that comes his way and Brian Whittaker is improving rapidly in his left-back position. In the attack Doug Somner can score invaluable goals and Thistle have three of Scotland's most versatile stars in Bobby Houston, Alex O'Hara and Colin McAdam.

WEAKNESSES: The team appears to adopt a safety-first attitude in a lot of their games and it is a very dangerous attitude that often leads to disaster. There is a lack of punch in the forward line where Somner could definitely do with support.

OUTCOME: This could be a long, nerve-tingling season for Thistle. They have lived dangerously in the past. It could prove to be third time

unlucky. Manager Bertie Auld and his players will obviously disagree with that and go all out to make us eat our words!

MORTON: They are under pressure as a lot of critics feel they are certain not to last the pace, but the Greenock men will not surrender until the very last kick of the very last game of the season.

STRENGTHS: They have a fairly settled side and manager Benny Rooney has worked superbly in getting his team ticking over with consistency as well as a splash of flamboyance. If the club, can hold on to Andy Ritchie they could be a real surprise.

WEAKNESSES: It's a young side when you remember their longest-serving player is skipper and right-back Davie Hayes, who is only 25! They might lack a bit of experience in vital positions.

OUTCOME: If they get a good start they could consolidate their place in the top ten. Again they will be hoping to steer clear of serious injury problems because of their wafer-thin first team squad.

ST. MIRREN: New manager Jim Clunie must have been pleasantly surprised by the side when they scored eight goals against Hamilton in his first game in charge of the Paisley side. It was a friendly, but, at the same time, the Saints showed some frightening firepower.

STRENGTHS: They aren't hard to see. The club has some of the best young players in Britain in the likes of Tony Fitzpatrick, Frank McGarvey, Bobby Torrance, Bobby Reid and Billy Stark.

WEAKNESSES: Last season they tried three 'keepers, Ally and Donald Hunter and Alan McCulloch, without sorting out their problem spot. They started this season with yet another new face, Ally McLean, from Aberdeen, and Clunie must be hoping that he is the answer to every Paisley fan's prayer.

OUTCOME: They won't be relegated, but they may have to settle for, possibly, a sixth or seventh spot in the League. A heavy winter could put them under pressure.



great success. Bourke, of course, has now walked out on the club and this adds to McLean's problems.

OUTCOME: It's difficult to see them improving on last season when they took third place in the League and reached the Scottish Cup Semi-Final.

HIBS: It's about time the Easter Road side gave their fans something to shout about again. They have dropped into the doldrums in the past five or so years and obviously miss players of the calibre of Pat Stanton, Peter Cormack, Peter Marinello, Colin Stein and John Blackley.

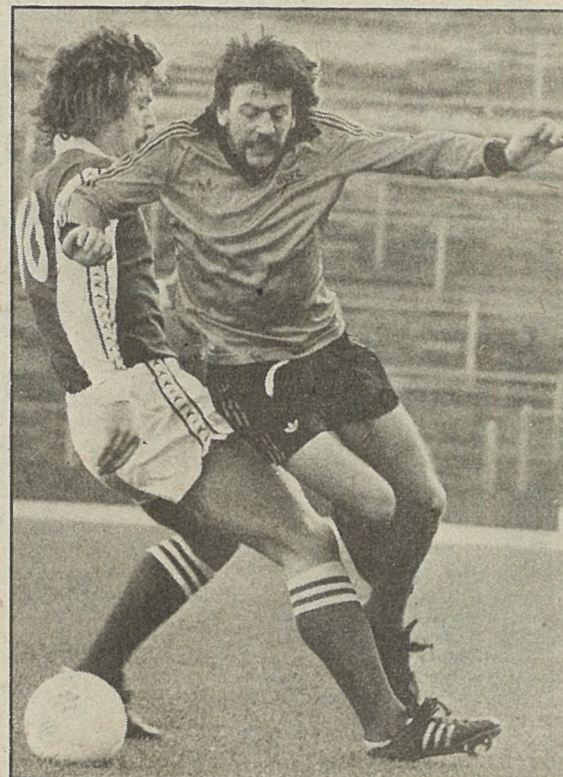
STRENGTHS: They have a blend of youth and experience that took them to fourth spot in the League and a place in the U.E.F.A. Cup, just pipping Celtic in the process. John Brownlie, Bobby Smith, Des Bremner, Ally MacLeod, Jackie McNamara and Arthur Duncan are all good players, but consistency

critics think they will do better than the Cappielow side in the Premier Division. It's true Nottingham Forest came third behind Chelsea and Wolves in the English Second Division two seasons ago and then went on to win the First Division title last season, but manager Brian Clough had big money to spend on players such as Peter Shilton, David Needham, Kenny Burns and Archie Gemmill.

Tynecastle manager Willie Ormond does not have that luxury and it could be his side will struggle to settle into the Top Ten. No team has a divine right to a place in the Premier... Hearts could find to their cost this season.

STRENGTHS: New signing Frank Liddell, from Alloa, and Dave McNicol could combine well in the middle of the defence while Eamonn Bannon and Drew Busby supply the brains and industry in the middle of the park with Willie Gibson finishing off most of the

Above: Alan Rough of Partick saves a penalty from Jim Bone of St. Mirren but the ball rebounded to the striker who scored.



Right: Tony Higgins of Hibs (left) and Dundee United's George Fleming in action during a Premier game in 1977-78.

FIRST DIVISION— Dundee face the crunch

DUNDEE are a Premier Division club temporarily staying in the First Division... that's what Dens Park fans keep telling you, but even those faithful supporters must realise this is the crunch season for Tommy Gemmell and his team.

This will be their third term out of the Premier Division and for a full-time, ambitious club that is a disastrous state of affairs. Gemmell is fully aware of the pressure on him.

The Dens Park men simply cannot afford to miss promotion this season and that could drive them back into the Premier. Failure is unthinkable and every player on the staff is prepared to give his all this season.

SHOOT believes Dundee will be successful this time after being so close last term. Sharpshooter Billy Pirlie could be the man to blast them into the Top Ten with the support of players such as Jocky Scott, Ian MacDougall, John McPhail and Billy Williamson.

Last season was one of anguish for the likeable Gemmell, who worked hard in the transfer market to put together a side that was good enough for promotion and the Premier. They were just pipped by Hearts in the last game of the season.

After they had beaten First Division Champions Morton 3-2 at Cappielow the news came through from Gayfield, Hearts had beaten Arbroath 1-0 and the dream was over for another year for the Dundee men.

So, we are taking Dundee to be crowned Champions at the third attempt, but who will get that coveted runners-up spot?

There are several possibilities. A lot of teams are preparing for a mighty assault on promotion.

Ayr United? Manager Alex Stuart is one of the most know-

ledgeable bosses in the game and his stay in Argentina for the World Cup Finals where he studied the training methods of some of the best countries will be put to a good use at Somerset Park.

Kilmarnock? They may have sold international goalkeeper Jim Stewart to Middlesbrough, but Alan McCulloch, recalled from St. Mirren after a short spell on loan, is adequate cover. They have signed Jim Clark, from Stirling Albion, and Joe Cairney, from Airdrie, and manager Dave Sneddon will be hoping they are the final pieces in his jigsaw.

Clydebank? They slipped out of the Premier along with Ayr and have now reverted back to a part-time system. Obviously they missed players of the calibre of Davie Cooper (Rangers) and Mike Larnach (Newcastle) and they could still miss them this time out.

Study Defence

Dumbarton? Manager Davy Wilson has built a fair side with a competent goalkeeper in Lawrie Williams, who was interesting Wales manager Mike Smith last season, a sturdy defence with the experience of Jim Muir and Pat McCluskey and a forward line with two swift raiders in Murdo, McLeod and Graham Fyfe.

Airdrie? New boss Bobby Watson, a former Rangers teammate of Davy Wilson, is as ambitious as they come and may have got himself a great bargain in striker John Goldthorp, who cost only £10,000 from Morton in the close season.

There may well be other surprise sides, but SHOOT's prediction is Ayr United will go bouncing back into the Premier at the first attempt. Let's see if we are proved right...



Dundee's Iain Phillip is beaten to the ball by Ian Smith of Hearts. The Tynecastle club also won the promotion race last term.

SECOND DIVISION— Berwick won't miss out this time



Dave Smith's Berwick could possibly gain a promotion spot from the Second this term.

ONCE-MIGHTY Dunfermline could start their road to recovery this season by taking the Second Division title and moving up a League.

Manager Harry Melrose realises just how tough it is to get out of this Division where every point is precious and the competition is quite startling even if the action still fails to attract the fans to the games in acceptable numbers.

The Fifers came with a late surge last season, but failed as their close rivals Raith Rovers, managed by ex-Motherwell boss Willie McLean, pipped them to go up with Clyde, who are bossed by McLean's former Fir Park assistant Craig Brown.

Dunfermline realise they are being left behind now. The glamour has left East End Park where even European giants fell in the not-too-distant past. That thought will give them added urgency and could lift their game. Who gets second place? That

could settle into a battle between two clubs who are managed by former Aberdeen players. Melrose, remember, is another ex-Pittodrie player!

Dave Smith's Berwick Rangers and Billy Little's Falkirk are the clubs who could fight out that promotion spot.

Slipped

Berwick looked like going up at one stage last season, but slipped on the run-in while Falkirk were surprisingly relegated from the First Division. Both Smith and Little are ambitious and the meetings between their clubs will be rare old tussles.

SHOOT believes Berwick will get the better of their rivals in their clashes and, won't miss out this time.

Anyway, may the best team win!



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winning side”**

says Emlyn Hughes, Captain of European Champions Liverpool and England

WITH a day or two to go before the new season gets under way, everyone at Villa Park is confident of bringing a trophy to the club. No doubt all 92 sides feel the same way — after all, we're all unbeaten at the moment! But I've sensed a special sort of atmosphere since we reported back to training a month ago and this is why I'm sure we can realise the potential we've shown over the past three or four years.

We don't want to be known as "a team for the future." That was being said four years ago and we all know 1978/79 is the season we MUST make a big impact.

All the boys were disappointed about last season, although someone told me the other week our final position was Villa's third-highest in the League since the War, so perhaps things weren't as bad as some people made out.

Still, the fact the players were upset shows the standards we've set ourselves. I think we were just a little complacent this time a year ago, after having won the League Cup. We started badly and no side can lose as many home games as we did in the first three months and win the title.

When we came back this season, I sensed straight away a different approach. There was more determination, everyone was keyed up. A year ago too many of us were virtually assured of a first team place. This season, we have 18 players in our first team pool, so there certainly won't be any room for

'The title

"Everton beat us at Villa Park last August, one of too many home defeats for us."



complacency.

I've had a complete rest this summer. After missing out on the World Cup, I decided to let my body have a "sleep" and I did virtually no exercise during the close-season. I think every sportsman — footballer, tennis star, athlete, anyone — needs to "recharge his batteries" and I did just that.

Because of this, I've been like a 17-year-old approaching his first season as a professional; rarely have I felt so anxious for the season to start.

All my knocks from last season have healed and, touch wood, I'll have better luck in this respect in 1978/79.

Basically it's the same players who were with us last season. Perhaps some of our fans would have liked to see a new face. My own wish is for a winger, but having said that our squad has almost been boosted by "new" faces. We were so badly hit by injuries last season our resources were really stretched. Now, with nearly all the players fit, it's almost like having new signings.

I think we'll see the same old faces challenging for the title... the Liverpool and Manchester clubs, Forest will be up there again, Arsenal, perhaps — and Villa.

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Villa don't want'

Liverpool are the bookies' favourites and you always get a good run for your money with The Reds. Personally, I think they could do with a big striker to play alongside Kenny Dalglish. Even so, Liverpool's professional approach to the game will carry them through.

I can't see Everton knocking their neighbours off their perch just yet. They had a good season in 1977/78, yet the Goodison Park club won nothing. I wonder how that will affect their attitude this season?

Manchester City have been spending even more money and they'll be under a lot of pressure to win the League. The problem with big-money buys is they don't necessarily blend together as a unit. City have flattered to deceive recently — maybe this will be their season.

United fans will be expecting a lot from Gordon McQueen and Joe Jordan. They've changed their style because of this pair and I believe you'll see a lot of high balls pumped over for Big Joe, which is alien to the game. The Reds played under Tommy Docherty. This is a difficult period for the Old Trafford club and if City get their noses in front things will be even harder.

Forest are a special case, as I feel Brian Clough and Peter Taylor were, in many ways, more important than the players last season. They'll be up there once more, although I can't see a similar surprise team this season.

My own name has been linked with both Forest and Liverpool and I'm honoured Brian Clough or Bob Paisley are supposedly interested in me. It's a nice feeling, although I must put the record straight and say I have four more years of my Villa contract to run, I'm very happy here and definitely won't be asking for a move.

I know no more than what I've read in the papers. All I will say is I was chuffed to think the two most successful managers in Britain last

season could be after me ... although you know newspapers!

My ambitions for the coming season are to score as many goals as I can, help Villa to honours and get my place back in the Scotland team.

I'll be disappointed if I don't score at least 25 goals, ideally I'd like to get around 30 ... anything over that is a bonus.

I dearly want to play for my country again, but this is a subject I'll talk about in depth later.

Most of the attention this weekend will be focused on Spurs' recent signings from Argentina, Osvaldo Ardiles and Ricardo Villa. I think they'll be good for our game and will add a new dimension to our soccer.

Whether they'll adapt remains to be seen. They face a problem on and off the field, because if you're not happy in your personal life, your form suffers. I wish them well.

I was impressed by Argentina during the World Cup Finals. They played a very English League-type of game, fast and putting opponents under pressure. This should help the pair settle in a bit more quickly.

Few foreigners

I'll have a close look at them when they make their White Hart Lane debut on August 23rd against Villa.

I don't think we'll see too many foreign stars coming here, though. The Europeans won't come because they can earn more money elsewhere on the Continent, paying far less tax, too.

We could see players from less-prosperous countries, like Argentina or perhaps Tunisia, coming here. However, I understand some of the Tunisians are seeking their fortune in the Middle East where, of course, they have no language problem.

We kick-off the season at home against Wolves and it is vitally important we start with a win, remembering our indifferent form at Villa Park of a year ago.

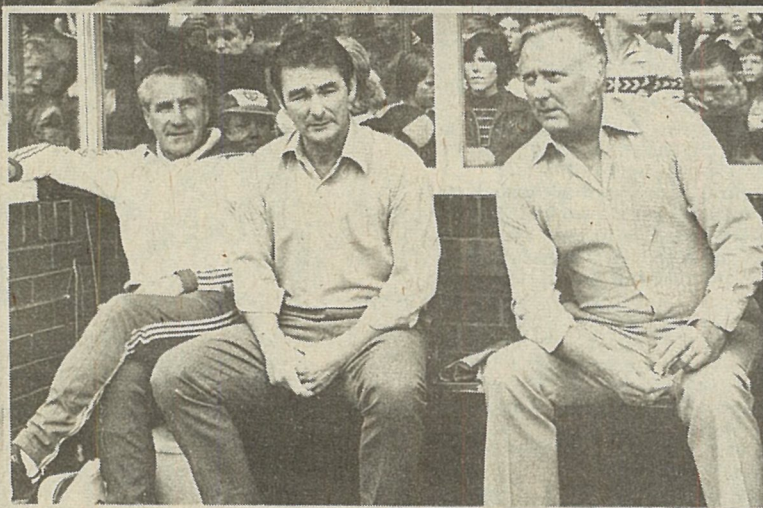
We beat Wolves 2-0 in the corresponding game last season, although I didn't play in that match.

Then, in midweek, we travel down to London to face Spurs and, presumably, the two Argentinians.

Join me again in two weeks.

**ANDY
GRAY**
Writes for you

"Brian Clough and Peter Taylor were largely responsible for Forest's success last season."



Andy Gray

TAKE A BREAK—IT'S

Quiz Time

1. What do Gordon Banks, Alan Stevenson and John Osborne have in common apart from being goalkeepers?

2. Liverpool stalwart Tommy Smith (below) made his League debut in May, 1963, 1964 or 1965, and during the summer he has been playing for Los Angeles Aztecs, the Cosmos or Philadelphia Fury?



3. (a) George Curtis (486), (b) Ron Ashman (590), (c) Bob McKinlay (614) and (d) John Atyeo (597) hold their respective clubs' League appearance records. Which of these former players starred for (a) Nottingham Forest, (b) Coventry City, (c) Bristol City and (d) Norwich City?

4. Rearrange the jumbled letters to find the names of three of Britain's top strikers... (a) OJE APEHRR (DBARNEEE), (b) OBB HDOTLFRCA (TVNOREE), (c) NALN SCRUTI (WEANSSA).

5. Glasgow Rangers' new manager John Greig recently signed a defender from Manchester United on a year's loan. Who is he?

6. This international began his League career with Middlesbrough before joining Notts County. After 273 League games for the Meadow Lane club, Q.P.R. paid around £100,000 for him. Then, during last term, he joined Derby County. After returning from Argentina with Scotland he was linked with Norwich City. Can you identify him?

7. What record did Northern Ireland goalkeeper Pat Jennings (right) beat when he played against England at Wembley in May, 1976?

8. Scorers: Conroy (below) and Eastham for the winners; Osgood for the losers. Name the two clubs and the season of this League Cup Final?



9. Norwich City's recent buy from Servette of Switzerland, Martin Chivers, has played for two other Football League clubs... can you name them?

10. Name the West Ham striker who scored both goals in his club's 2-0 win against Fulham in the 1974-75 F.A. Cup Final?

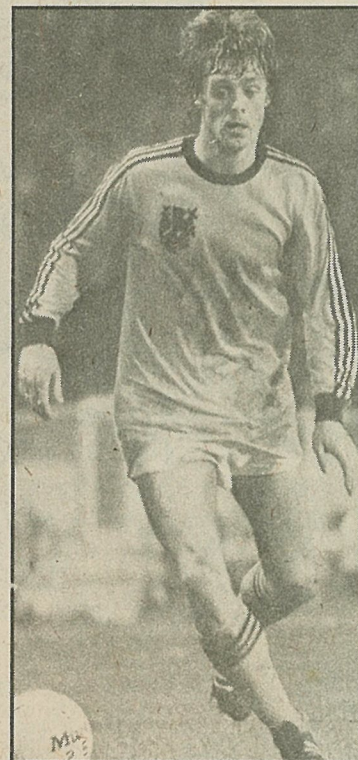
11. Spot the five deliberate mistakes from the short account of the 1978 World Cup Final:

'Before the game kicked-off Argentina were rocked when Ardiles failed a fitness test. The first-half was even, although Holland created the better chances. Then just before the interval, the host nation took the lead when Luque fired home from close-range. After the break, the Dutch came back and Johnny Rep (right) headed a fine equaliser. And so to extra-time. The fans lifted Argentina and it was no surprise when Kempes put them in front and Houseman made it 3-1 shortly after to make sure Argentina captured the World Cup for the second time.'



12. Mike Elwiss was transferred during the close-season to which other Second Division club from Preston North End?

13. What is wrong with this statement? Alan Hunter played a tremendous part helping Ipswich Town to beat Arsenal 1-0 in last season's F.A. Cup Final at Wembley.



14. Select the correct amount of full international caps the following players gained in their careers.

(a) Alan Ball (England — 72, 82, 92), (b) Tommy Jackson (Northern Ireland — 15, 25, 35), (c) Billy Bremner (Scotland — 44, 54, 64), (d) Mike England (Wales — 34, 44, 54) and (e) John Dempsey (Eire — 19, 29, 39).

15. The following League games are scheduled for Saturday, August 19th. Can you name the grounds they will be played on...

(a) Millwall v. Newcastle, (b) Partick v. Dundee United, (c) Hartlepool v. Doncaster and (d) St. Mirren v. Motherwell?

ANSWERS:

1. They began their careers at Chelsea. 2. May, 1963 and he played for Los Angeles Aztecs. 3. (a) Bob McKinlay, (b) George Curtis, (c) John Atyeo, (d) Ron Ashman. 4. (a) Joe Harper (Aberdeen), (b) Bob Latchford (Everton), (c) Alan Curtis (Swansea), 5. Alex Forsyth. 6. Don Masson. 7. He became the record caps holder for his country. 8. Stoke and Chelsea in 1971-72. 9. Southampton and Spurs. 10. Alan Taylor. 11. (a) Ardiles played, (b) Kempes scored the first — not Dutch, (d) Bortoni made it 3-1 and it was the first World Cup Final triumph by Argentina. 12. Crystal Palace. 13. It should read Allan not Alan. 14. (a) 72, (b) 35, (c) 54, (d) 44 and (e) 29. 15. (a) The Victoria Ground, (d) Love Street.

GO FOR THE DOUBLE ANSWERS

ACROSS:— (1) West Ham. (8) To. (9) Go. (10) Fat. (12) Be. (14) Woods. (17) Bly. (18) Eaves. (19) Sit. (21) Is. (22) Highway. (25) None. (26) Newt. (27) Donor. (28) Boam. (29) Or. (30) Statham. (33) At. (34) Me. (35) No. (36) Walsh.

DOWN:— (1) Webb. (2) St. (3) Tow. (4) Ago. (5) Mode. (6) Of. (7) It. (11) Arena. (13) Elms. (15) Orient. (16) Sash. (19) Showman. (20) Tie. (21) In. (23) Wing. (24) Yorath. (25) Neat. (26) Nose. (27) Draw. (29) Oh! (31) To. (32) Ma. (33) As.

Jumbled Name: IAN GILLARD

Win or Bust—that's Albion

under manager big Ron Atkinson

RON Atkinson is not the sort of man you would choose to argue with.

At least, not if you have any regard for your own well being.

For Atkinson is a man of enormous physical presence, standing over six feet tall and weighing in at 15 stones.

Atkinson has been in charge of three clubs — and has had an instant impact on all of them.

After finishing a long playing career with Oxford United — he skipped them from the Southern League to the Second Division — Atkinson took his first step into management, at Kettering.

In three seasons there Big Ron steered them to two Southern League titles and one fourth place.

Then it was on to Cambridge, who at the time he joined them were struggling at the foot of the Fourth Division.

Atkinson waved his magic wand again, guided them to the Fourth Division Championship and shaped the side that was to climb into the Second Division before West Bromwich Albion beckoned and offered him a place in the big time.

Atkinson joined them last January and anyone who thought a man having his first taste of the First Division would be worried about moving into such illustrious company could not have been more wrong.

He bounced back into The Hawthorns with all the confidence in the world and before Albion realised what had hit them they were in the Semi-Finals of the F.A. Cup — having knocked out formidable sides like Manchester United, Derby and Forest along the way.

The success story turned a bit sour at that point, with strong favourites Albion losing 3-1 to Ipswich — who went on to win the trophy.

That, you can be sure, was a temporary setback in the career of Ron Atkinson, a man with the qualities to succeed wherever he goes.

What are those qualities? What enables a man with a modest playing background to climb up among the game's greats and meet them on equal terms?

The first is that astounding confidence. Atkinson believes he is going to win EVERY match he takes part in.

"Of course I'm convinced we are going to win every time we go out. If I was not how could I hope to convince my players, instil the confidence in them that I have myself," he says.

"Players are not fools. They know when you are trying to con them. If I was the least bit hesitant or doubtful before a match they would sense it and it would have an affect on them."

Atkinson always believes in being positive as well. He would

never go and play for one point when two are there for the taking.

"You have got to set your sights high and go for a win all the time," he declares. "If you go out looking for a draw and fail you finish up with nothing. If you aim for a win and fail to get it there's a great chance you will come out with a share of the points."

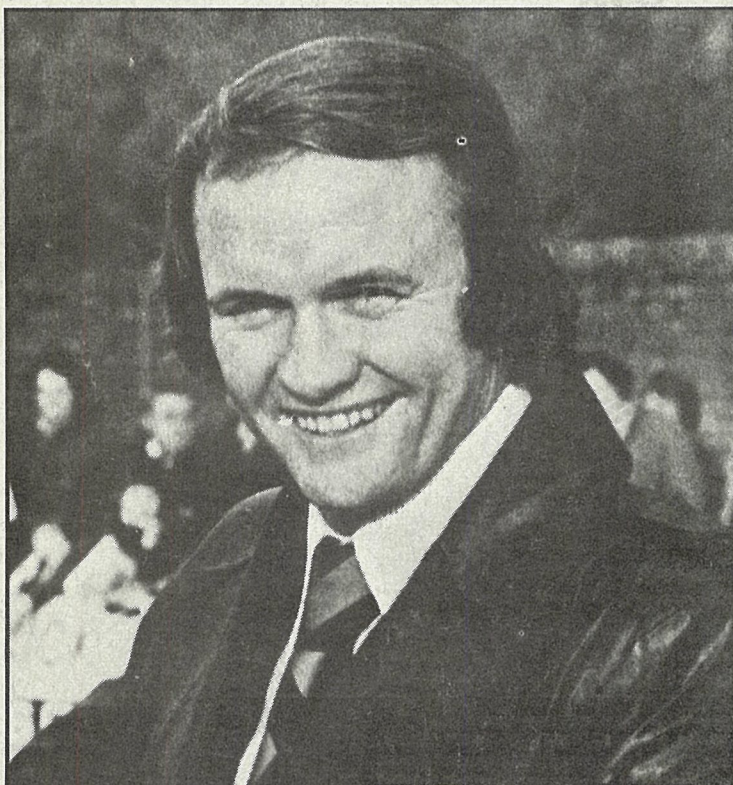
And he never asks his players to do anything he cannot do himself. Even though he is knocking 40 he still takes a full part in all the training sessions and five-a-sides.

In fact the "fives" are the highlight of the week for him. This big, open, honest character who cares for the game passionately, loves nothing more than to get among the goals out on the practice pitch.

His big ambition at Cambridge was to give the club a Cup run, to bring some of the games biggest names to the City. He failed to do it and the irony of Albion's run to last season's Semi-Final was not lost on him.

"I thought as it was happening that this sort of excitement was

West Brom had good F.A. Cup wins against Manchester United, Derby and Nottingham Forest (below, Albion's Ally Brown, stripes, goes for the ball with Kenny Burns) before being knocked-out by eventual winners Ipswich in the Semi-Finals.



what I was striving to get for Cambridge. Still it was not to be," he says.

And he asks us not to forget the League form that was overshadowed by Albion's Cup success.

It has been overlooked in most places that Albion gathered in 14 points from the last nine games to clinch a place in this season's U.E.F.A. Cup.

Atkinson believes he was always destined to become a First Division manager. That's why the prospect of taking over at Albion did not bother him in the slightest.

And others who have met the big fellow are convinced he will be a success wherever he goes in the game.

Among his admirers is Colchester coach Ray Harford, who spent some time with Atkinson on holiday last summer.

"I had come into contact with Ron quite a bit when he was at Cambridge — but I did not really know too much about him," says Harford.

"But having spent a fair amount of time with him on holiday I can fully understand why he is so successful."

"Ron is one of life's winners. He genuinely feels he is better than the next guy and, as a result, has no trouble transmitting that belief to his players."

That's comforting news for all Albion fans who can rest assured the future of their club is promising under the guidance of Big Ron.



**STEVE
COPPELL**
Man. Utd.

SHOOT!